

先勇者は隠居したい

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井々田K

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MFマックス

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Iida K



MF マガジン

Sendai Yuusha wa Inkyou Shitai

(先代勇者は隠居したい)

The Previous Hero wants to Retire

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(タピオカ)

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Story Description:

Three years ago, in the land of Reinbulk, a Legendary Hero was summoned in the Kingdom of Leezalion and he succeeded in repelling the Demon King. Now, five students are summoned back into Reinbulk by the Kingdom of Luxeria to fight against the Demon King and the demon army. Unlike the other heroes, Yashiro Yuu has no magical affinity and the Luxeria Kingdom has no intention on acknowledging his existence or returning him to his world.

However, Yuu is actually the previous Hero that had fought the Demon King. Moreover, he is perplexed at the situation since he knows the Demon King has not returned since he sealed him. If the seal was ever broken then he would be automatically summoned instead of normal summoned. Since he already saved the world once and the Demon King hasn't been unsealed, Yuu decides to leave the demons to the new heroes and retire from the Hero business. So he decides to become an adventurer.

Original Story can be found here: [Link](#)

Translation source can be found here: [Link](#)

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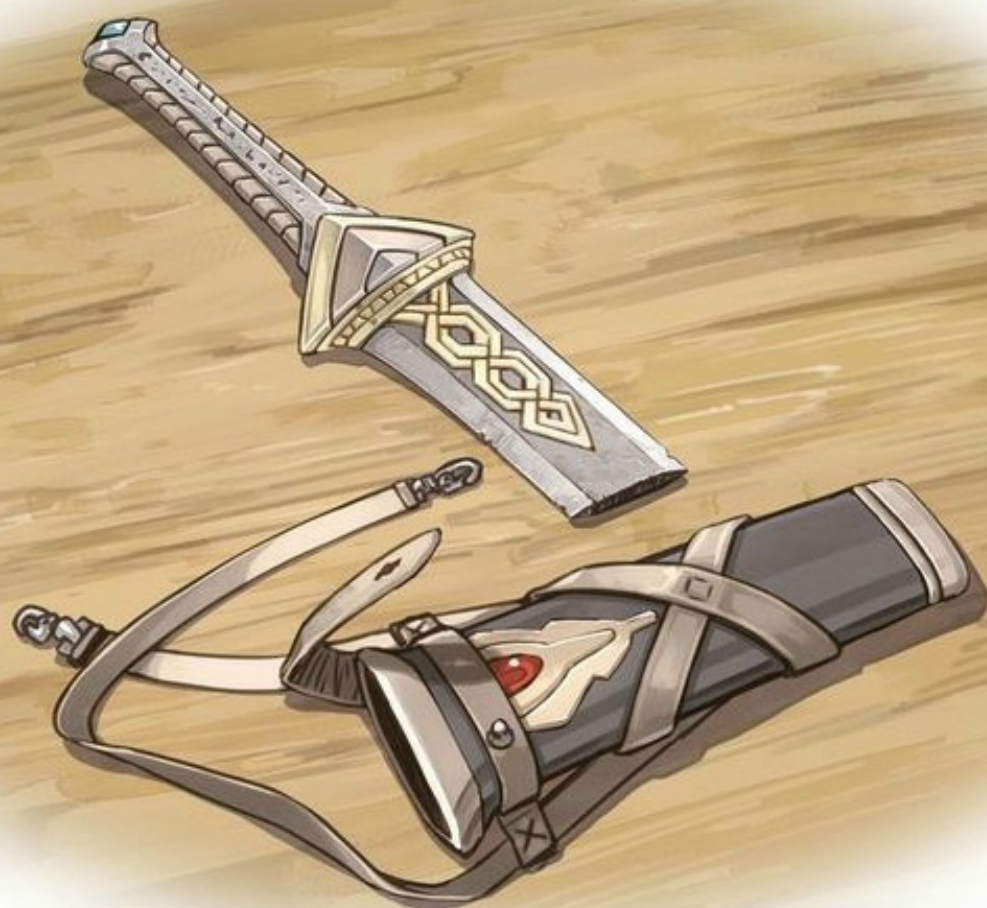
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先代勇者は隠居したい

4
井々田K
Iida K



やしろ 勇
社勇

ベルナデット

人物紹介

先代勇者は隠居



パイモン

フィオナ

アンジェリカ

クオン



「お、

おおおっ、

おれのからだが一っ!!」

“M, m-m-m, my body is—!!”

Chapter 96 - The Preceding Hero, Is Reluctant

*

Do you know of the words “Other world labyrinth”?

I wonder if you’d understand if I said “Dungeon”?

Dungeons are an existence that Fantasy-type other worlds of swords and magic can’t be without.

Traveling on foot through a Dungeon that became a monster den, you get the treasure that sleeps in the Dungeon.

That kind of labyrinth overflowing with a man’s romance, naturally exists in this other world of Reynbrook as well.

On a certain solitary island called Nordyord, there is that kind of labyrinth.

The Nordyord Labyrinth (the name of the labyrinth is basically just starts with the name of the place that it exists in) that was just found in recent years has yet had anyone reach the inner depths, and due to that labyrinth’s huge size and degree of difficulty, it has been called a Great Labyrinth (only Great Labyrinths are not Dungeons and are read as Great Labyrinths).

Now then, about this Nordyord Labyrinth, right now, it was known as the hottest labyrinth.

- The height of the quality of the monsters.
- The possibility to mine Magic Stones.
- There is no one that has reached the lowest level.

It’s these three things.

The quality of a monster had a direct connection to the rarity of the items obtained from the monsters.

As for being able to mine Magic Stones that are often used in the engine

parts of things like Magic Tools, you would probably understand if it was said that this labyrinth was a Magic Stone mine in the olden days. Since good quality Magic Stones would sell for a high price even if it had the size of a pinky, it was popular.

And then, if one were to become the first person to conquer this dungeon, they would unmistakably be considered a person who has rendered a distinguished service by the Guild, have a festival thrown for them, and have their name known throughout the world.

Of course, they each had their own demerits.

If the monster's quality was high, the monster's strength would be just as high, and something like a good quality Magic Stone was not something that would be easily obtained.

To become the conqueror, they would have to plunge forward through a layer of savage land without any background knowledge about it.

However, for the Adventurers and Mercenaries, even if they take the various demerits into account, the merits still greatly surpassed them, and it was a mouth-watering labyrinth.

「I'm not going. Into something like a labyrinth.」

「Eh~!?!」

A young lady raised a voice of discontent at the words the young man uttered.

「We went through the trouble of coming to Nordyord! If we don't dive into the labyrinth, then I won't know what we came here for~!」

The boyish young lady with short blonde hair and fox ears grabbed at him and drew close with force, but the black-haired young man didn't change and refused with a discouraging attitude.

「Even if we were to dive into something like a labyrinth, at the very least, there's advantages for me. That's why I won't go.」

There was no use in arguing as he didn't have ears to listen to them. A young lady that had grown her glossy black hair down to her waist tilted

her head at that attitude that felt like it was already at the limits of stubbornness.

「If it's you, Yashiro-san, I actually thought that you'd say something like 「You're not a man if you don't go Dungeon diving!」 and wildly assault it with excitement.」

「That's right, Aniki! Since you were born a man, let's go and carve your name into the world!」

「It's because I didn't want that that I was a Hero while hiding my name.」

In one corner of the bar that was brimming with people, the young man breathed a sigh while carrying the bar's snacks to his mouth. He was of age, so if he had some alcohol at hand, he would have drowned his cares in drink.

Of course, they were Yashiro Yuu, the Preceding Hero, and Bernadette, an Agent of the Church.

And then, along with the new companion that would be travelling with them, Kuon Heleott, it was the three of them.

「To begin with, I don't have any money troubles.」

Yuu still possessed the Guild card that he was given by Norn. That amount of money that an ordinary person couldn't exhaust even if they used it their whole life, as long as he had that Guild Card, he could lay low.

Therefore, one of the appeals of the dungeon, 『profit』, didn't communicate to Yuu.

Dan! (Bam!)

Kuon hit the table and stood up.

「There are monsters that have never been seen before and a boss that no one has ever reached, you know!? To just sit on your butt with that right in front of you, I've misjudged you, Aniki! I do respect you though.」

Kuon, who was itching to dive into the labyrinth and fight as much as

she liked, glared at Yuu while getting a bit teary eyed.

Exposed to that strong look, Yuu let out a big sigh, and leaked a mutter within his mind.

Why did it turn out like this.....

That, was something from a few hours before.



Three days of being rocked by the waves.

Although there were also things like a poker showdown of the sailors and a struggle to the death with a gigantic squid, the transport ship, 『The Zekamashi』, safely continued through the sea towards Galarie.

They should have arrived at Galarie after a few more days but things turned into a situation that would make them greatly stray from 『The Zekamashi』's route.

「It's a storm———っ!!」

Tens of minutes after one of the sailors shouted, 『The Zekamashi』 was dragged into a raging storm.

「It's not like it were anything drastic, but we've greatly strayed off the planned route.」

“So that wasn't something that you'd call drastic?” is what Yuu thought in his mind but he decided to keep quiet.

The man called the captain of 『The Zekamashi』 took out several sea charts in front of Yuu, Bernadette and Kuon.

「The place that we're at right now is this island, 『Nordyard』. We've been considerably washed away to the west.」

Pointing at the island that was drawn on the sea charts, the captain completely did not show an impatient attitude in regards to the current situation.

「Well, I'm sure this storm will stop by tomorrow. So we'll just have to be on standby on this island 'til then!」

The captain rolled up the sea charts.

「What would Kuon-boccha— ojou-san like to do?」

Seeming like the ship captain and the Heleott family were acquaintances, Kuon made a wry smile at the ship captain that stopped himself from saying “-bocchan”.^[1]

「Since there's nothing we can do about it, we'll go up on shore. If an inn's open, we'll pass the night on a bed that doesn't sway.」

She had a tone that made one want to shout out something like “Nee-san!” if she had a tobacco pipe. That's what she looked like.

「Let's go too, Yashiro-san!」

Bernadette, who understood that it would concern the sailors' life and death if she were to eat a large amount of the ship's food, had been dissatisfied recently.

It seemed that she thought that if it were a restaurant on land, even if she were to eat like an idiot, she would probably be forgiven with just getting kicked out and banned from the store.

As proof of that, drool was dripping down from her mouth.

「First, wipe your mouth, Food Buster. Hm~m, it is true that there's a limit to what you can do on the ship. We'll also go down for now.」

Replying with an “Aiyo”, the captain left their room.



「Phew~.....I'm feeling kind of tired.」

「It did sway a whole lot after all. I thought that the ship was going to sink.」

On the island that 『The Zekamashi』 finally arrived at, Nordyord, there was a large town.

It was small when compared to something like Be Io, but for a town of a solitary island, it had a surprising liveliness and the bar was also completely overflowing with people (though they might simply be taking shelter from the rain).

「Aniki, it looks like you've still got a long way to go on top of the sea! Sister-nee-chan, although we didn't capsize, it's pretty much close to a miracle that we were washed away by a wave and reached a town, you know? Be sure to give thanks to whatever God you believe in.」

In our first time at sea, the sea-child Kuon, that that couldn't really be said to be true for her, didn't look like she was fatigued at all in comparison to me and Bernadette who were a bit worn out from all the large swaying motions.

「Hey, hey, are you guys going to immediately stay at the inn after this? If that's the case, then.....」

And then, we return to the beginning.

Translator's Notes:

[\[1\]](#) For those that don't know, -bocchan is kind of like saying "young master". Used on boys.

Chapter 97 - The Preceding Hero's Weakness?

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「Aniki, you tightwad.」

「Shut up.」

When I obstinately refused even after that, Kuon said that while looking at me with reproachful eyes.

「I'm fine with just the earlier levels~. To be honest, I just want to fight together with you, Aniki.」

You sure do say things that make me happy.
Wanting to respond to those feelings after having been told that much is the definition of a man.

「Still, I refuse.」

「Why!」

Kuon stood up and glared, but I won't budge at all.
Like hell I'm gonna go into something like a Dungeon.

When I made that firm decision, Bernadette looked at me as if she were peering into me.

「Wh, what is it.」

Seeing that mouth of hers trembling and looking like it was curbing into a smile, when I said that while getting a bad feeling about it,

「Yashiro-san, ...Are you the type that is bad with ghosts and stuff?」
is what she went and said.

「Wh, wh-wh-wh-who i-i-i-i-is.」

「Ahh, so you really are.」

Having caught onto my weakness, Bernadette smiled with a grin.

「When speaking of Dungeons, it's dark, and they say that the revengeful

ghosts of Adventurers that failed to conquer it and died come out. 『When talking about ghost stories, it's about a Dungeon』 is what they say after all.』

That's right. That was something from three years ago. I was originally bad with stuff like ghosts to begin with, but because of some self-proclaimed minstrel that did a hundred tales of other world ghost stories in the middle of our journey, I became no good with ghosts. That bastard, precisely because he was self-proclaimed, he excelled in the art of conversation, and when he did it, it felt real. The me at that time was so afraid from that that for several days.....No, let's put an end to this story. It's embarrassing after all.

「Hee~.....So Aniki also has something he's not good with!?!」

I flicked Kuon's forehead, who was laughing with a *Nishishi*, and silenced her.

「It was certainly unexpected but personally, our affinity is welling up. I am fine with ghosts though.」

「Gununu.....This damned no-good Sister.」

Should I also do a forehead flick to Bernadette who's been smirking this whole time.

「っ〜.....In that case, Aniki, wanna go around and look at the weapon stores?」

Kuon, who was in pain from laughing too hard, raised her head with teary eyes.

「Weapon stores?」

「Yeah. This Nordyord is famous for having a lot of arms stores and protector stores. It's especially famous for things like Magic Swords which use plenty of magic stones. Since excellent monster materials are obtained as well, there are also a lot of good quality weapons.」

I see, that's true.
Except for a portion of them, weapons and protectors are consumable

goods.

Even maintaining them would need them to be polished or tailored, and if they get broken, the guys that look like diving into Dungeons is their job would need to get new ones immediately.

So since it's a town where many Adventurers visit, it's inevitable that many arms stores would gather.

「Even for you, Aniki. I think that you should find a new weapon!」

「A weapon? If it's a weapon, I have one, you know?」

「Heh?」

「Look.」

I take out the twin swords that were in their scabbard from my pouch. They're the twin swords that Old man Gold prepared for me in Luxeria. Thinking back, I cut down countless enemies like the Six Blade General Terakio and the Dragon Zombies with these twin swords, but it's a named sword that could have gone down in history if the times hadn't changed.

「Don't touch the sword blade, got it? It seems that it has paralysis poison stocked in it.」

「It, it's alright for me to touch it!?!」

Since I took it out to let her touch it, when I nodded, she gripped and raised the scabbard looking nervous.

「.....ㄟ, Amazing.....」

Maybe because she resolved herself, she made a straight face, and when she slowly unsheathed the sword, seeing that emerald sword blade that was transparent like a gem, Kuon leaked out that word.

While letting the unsheathed sword get shined on by the light of the bar, Kuon smirked looking like she was spacing out. It was a bit of a dangerous smile that without a doubt looked like she was 『enchanted by the sword』.

「Oi oi, are you alright?」

「Ha!? Ah, ahh. A sword as beautiful as this, for me, this is my first time seeing one!」

When I called out to her, as if she finally regained consciousness, she started talking with an excited appearance.

「What the name of this sword?」

「The both of them are 『Crystal Venom』. This one is blue.」

「Amazing! So cool!」

When I draw the other one, Kuon became even more excited from seeing its blue sword blade.

「You know what else? When both of the swords go like this.....」

By inserting the pommels of the pair of swords into the gaps of each other.....The sword blades of the pair of swords are dyed red, and the snake ream double-edged 『Deep Crimson Carbunculus』 is complete.

「Uoooh!!」

Her tension is already at MAX. Man, it feels great when the reaction is this good.

「I'm terribly sorry. That sword, could you allow me to see it for a bit?」

「Ah?」

When I turn around from suddenly being called out to by someone..... There wasn't anyone there.

「O, over here!」

「Ah, sorry. Uhm, you are?」

When I lowered my gaze a bit, there was a small redheaded girl. Smaller than Lililuri, she probably didn't even reach one meter.

「Ah, I was slow in telling you this. I am a blacksmith called 『Ahato』 from a small workshop that was opened up here in Nordyord. Today, I came here to deliver several steel swords due to a request from the Guild, and then having come across a beautiful, unadorned sword on my way back, I guess you could call it a blacksmith's nature, I possessed an interest in it and called out to you.」

The fast-talking girl that named herself as Ahato had her cheeks and nose tanned red just like a blacksmith would, and her thick clothes were

stained black with soot.

「U-m.....right.」

Somehow feeling that this wasn't an atmosphere where I could refuse, when I handed it over while it was still linked together, after she fixedly gazed at it, she suddenly started disassembling it.

「Uh, ...Eh?」

Releasing the link, removing the sword blade from the handle, disassembling the handle into several parts, and raising the sword blade up with hands that took a position to make them look like mittens, she gazed at it from various angles.

Rather than calling it sudden, I was left completely surprised as a result of how she started disassembling it with actions that seemed to flow way too much and was left speechless, and when I realized it, she had reassembled the disassembled sword, returned it to its sheath that was placed on the table, and let out a sigh that sounded like she was satisfied.

「It's a rare article where the body ores of male and female ore dragons, Basilisks, were sharpened, and given a technique formula where they would be strengthened by linking them together. The gem embedded in the handle is a Basilisk's eye, correct? It must have a magic-like effect and be effective as an anti-petrification method. However, what's most wonderful of all is definitely its linking mechanism. Normally, swords that were only sharpened from something are brittle, and are things that are hard to handle when compared to swords made from iron. But to raise its strength by linking them together.....It's a very good work. I've seen something beautiful.」

She was most likely a Dwarf or some kind of Hobbit. Since she seemed well versed with minerals and weapons, I saw her as a Dwarf.

「Th, that's amazing.....」

「No, since I've disassembled it once, something like this is natural. More importantly, have you done maintenance on this sword?」

「No, I haven't.」

If it were iron or something, it would rust if blood wasn't wiped from it, but since it was made of stones that were like crystals, it was maintenance free.....is was what I was told by the old man but, is it still bad if I don't do it?

「Certainly, there's no need for maintenance like wiping blood, but it would probably be better for you to grind the edge of the blade. While it's true that it isn't a sword whose main point is cutting, the edge is starting to become round.」

「Ah, right. Thank you.」

「No, not at all. By the way, is this your first time being in this town?」

Since Bernadette and Kuon both nodded when she peeked over at them, I also nodded.

「A large number of pirates stay in this town as well. Please be careful.」

Saying that, Ahato left the bar.

「.....Pirates, huh.」

Just as Ahato said, even in this bar, although they were in the minority, there were men with appearances that clearly said that they were hooligans.

If we stay carefree too long, it feels like we'd get involved in something troublesome.

「I'm thinking of going to the inn and rest already but.....Kuon and Bernadette, what are you guys going to do?」

「Naturally, I'm going to the labyrinth! I'll be back by morning.」

We were in the ship before but I'm sure that she wants to personally feel the results of her restless training.

Maybe because she was itching to move her body around, Kuon immediately replied without placing any pause after my words.

「In that case, I'll go along with Kuon-san. Since I also want to become strong.」

So Bernadette's together with Kuon.

「Then it's decided. Tomorrow morning, let's assemble here again.」

「Well the, we'll be going, Aniki!」

As soon as I said that we would be acting on our own from hereon, the two of them left me behind and headed to the labyrinth.

Oi oi, what are we going to do about the bill. Is it on me? I'm definitely going to charge you guys after this!

When I gave up and tried to pay the bill, at the time I raised my hand,

「I'm gonna be taking a bit of your time, okay?」

Gata!

someone sat down in the seat that Bernadette sat in, the seat opposite of me, with a lot of energy.

「It's been a while, black hair. To think that I'd meet with you again in a place like this.」

Looking closely, they were a woman that looked like she was a bit past twenty and two men, one tall and lanky and the other short, standing behind her.

The woman had a pirate hat and a pirate-style coat. She also wore a shirt that openly showed her breast a lot and a miniskirt with black frills attached.

The men both had bandanas wrapped around their heads and felt like pirate underlings.

「You're out of luck for having met me today, is what I'd like to say, but I actually have a good story for you. Accompany me for a bit.」

That female pirate, who had hair that was made into rolls in several places and was a pink color that wouldn't be seen in modern Japan, or rather, on Earth, took out a gold coin from her breast, and fiddled with it

with her fingers.

「Why don't we do some busine.....」

「Who are you guys.」

I'm sorry for doing this when she was looking cool but, I have no recollection of these people.

With a Charin, the gold coin dropped, and the female pirate was trembling all over, and then she stood up with a lot of vigor.

「Fu, fufufufu. So that's how it is. You won't do business with bitter enemy that you once opened a struggle to the death with.....that's what you want to say, isn't it? Well, I can understand that feeling. But it's not a bad story for you eith.....」

「No, sorry. Aren't you mistaking me for another person?」

I relatively seriously don't know them but.....Eh? What? Am I acquainted with these people? The beauty is a beauty but she's kind of a person that I don't want to get involved with.....

Nn? Don't want to get involved with? Come to think of it, I feel like I've met her somewhere before.....

「Kuh.....M, making fun of me like that.....I won't let you say that you forgot the name of the Captain of the 『Black Rose Pirates』, Angelica Fon Belteny!!」

Seeing her figure of naming herself with a red face and teary eyes, I finally understood.

That's right, I know these three!

「So it's the Three Stooze Pirates!^[1] It's been a long time!」

These guys were pirates that got in our way several times in our journey three years ago.

Translator's Notes:

^[1] I made it “three stooze pirates” because Yuu calls them the “san ba kaizoku”. The three comes from being a crew of three. The “ba” comes

from the word for “rose” which is “bara”. The reason why I made it “stooge” is because taking the “ba” and the “ka” from kaizoku gives you “baka”.

Chapter 98 - The Preceding Hero and the Female Pirate

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「Who's the Three Stooge.....Fufu. Well, it's fine. Why don't we continue on to business.」

The female pirate Angelica plumped down and sat in the chair again.

「Black hair. From the time you were the luggage boy for the Hero crew, I've been aiming for you. That combat ability that could spitefully be identified as excellent. That tactical eye that's so high it make you feel humiliated. That avarice that goes to the point of being sacrilegious. Honestly, I thought that it was a waste to keep you as a luggage boy.」

Three years ago, in order to undo the seal on the Sacred Sword, we needed to go around to several sacred places.

It's that gathering jewels or something thing that often comes up in games.

The Three Stooge Pirates led by this Angelica would appear before us, create some ruckus, then scurry home, and were a bunch of guys that I didn't really get.

There were times where they got in the way, and there were times where they were useful.....

Incidentally, that luggage boy thing was a fake-out in order to hide the social status of being a Hero.

There was also the reason that when we met, Sylvia was in a tsun tsun mood and left the luggage carrying to me.

「And then, when meet again after such a long time, this time you're the luggage boy for those two brats.....I'm sad, you know. To think that the bitter enemy that once unfolded struggles to the death with us, is smoldering in a place like this.」

So, in Angelica's mind, I'm Bernadette and Kuon's luggage boy, huh. Rather, when did we unfold struggles to the death? Basically, these guys'

combat ability equated to nothing.

「.....Won't you come with us? If you're with us, I won't put you in the position of luggage boy. I'm thinking that it would be fine to bestow you the seat of vice-captain!」

「I refuse. More like, as if I would ever become something like a pirate.」

Even if they're rotten at it, these guys are pirates. Becoming a wanted person would be inevitable.

Since I wanted to stay ordinary and not stand out, there's no way I would become something like a pirate.

「Fufufu. A pirate, huh. Sorry to break it to you, black hair, but we've already quit the occupation of pirate.」

「Ha?」

「The era is that of the sky. That's right, we've become 『Sky Pirates』!」[\[1\]](#)

Standing up with enough energy that it seemed like the sound effect *Baba~n!* was attached to her, Angelica pointed to the sky (though what she was actually pointing at was the ceiling of the bar)

「Sorry do this after you made such a cool-looking face, but I refuse even more now. Airships are only usable in the Sky Space Region around Leezelion, aren't they? I don't want to be chased around by Leezelion's air forces.」

If I were to be discovered by Sylvia, I would get killed.
Although I have an interest in airships, the reasons to refuse are bigger.

「.....Fufu, fufufufufu. It would seem that in these three years, you've had a retired life or something and have been left behind the times. During these three years, airship technology has been raised to the point where they can fly outside of the Sky Space Region!」

「What!?!」

When I was surprised enough to make me stand, Angelica boldly smiled and sat back down.

But, still.....this really surprised me.

When speaking of airships, it's the iron plated vehicles used to travel through the skies that often show up in recent RPG games.

In games, they have the characteristic of being able to soar freely through the sky, but for the airships of this world, unless they're in an airspace called the『Sky Space Region』, they can't soar the skies.

The reason was because the engine's Wind Stone (you can just think of it as a Magic Stone that was given an attribute) seemed to only function in that Sky Space Region but.....

「How about it? It's a bit attractive, isn't it?」

Yeah. I honestly had a huge amount of interest.

I really wanted to know how the engine was tampered with to make it so that a single ship could fly. I get excited just hearing about the latest technology.

「But being a sailor is impossible for me. I want to travel slowly after all.」

「I, I thought you would say that.....Why don't you go with us on a single dealing?」

Angelica snatched the gold coin that the tall, lanky man picked up, and once again fiddled around with it with her fingertips.

.....I see, so that's what they were planning from the beginning.

By showing that they have no hostility by inviting me to become a sailor, even if I refuse, they could effectively promote doing the next dealing..... well, I guess they can't do such an advanced dealing. After all, when I refused, she dropped the gold coin again.

「You want to touch an airship.....We need a superior quality Magic Stone. That's where the deal is. We want you to conquer this Nordyord's Dungeon.」

「But I refuse.」

「Fufu, it really helps that you're quick to the chase. In that case, starting tomorrow, let's go.....Fue!?!」

When I refused, Angelica's smart looking face cracked and distorted into a face that looked like she would cry.

「Wh, why are you refusing!? There aren't any big demerits for you.....」

「There's a huge one, idiot. Who'd want to dive into something like a Dungeon, idiot. Don't ever come to me again, idiot.」

I drink up the water on the table in one gulp.

「Y, you didn't have to.....go saying all of those "idiots".....did you.」

「Ah, Nee-san!」

「Hey, black hair! It's yer fault tha' Nee-san star'ed cryin'!」

She started crying like a child. That's way too unresistant to being stirred up.

Hmmm, still, feelings of guilt are completely not being produced. Maybe it's because they got in our way so much three years ago.

「To begin with, we were going to leave this island depending on when the storm ends. Looking at it as a problem of time, diving into the Dungeon and gathering Magic Stones is impossible.」

That's right, even if they say to gather Magic Stones, good quality Magic Stones are really small.

It wouldn't take very long but finding them in half a day is impossible.

「.....」

「.....」

「.....」

When I declared that, for some reason, the Three Stooze Pirates.....Since they're no longer pirates, let's go with the Three Stooges.

For some reason, the Three Stooges looked at me and stiffened up.

「Gusu, ...You, did you just come in today?」

「Eh? Yeah. We came just a little while ago. We were in the middle of heading to Galarie when we were swallowed up by the storm.」

「.....We've been locked up by this storm for a week now. I simply can't think that it will stop tomorrow.」

.....What?

「Ho, hold on a minute! Just now, what did you say?」

There was a sentence that I wanted to think that I misheard her.

「We've been held up by this storm for a week already! After all, only fools would try to advance through the sea in the middle of this storm.」

I didn't mishear her.

「You've been stuck here, for a week!? Just hold on there, a storm of this scale has been continuing on for a week?」

Something like that is no longer just abnormal weather.

「We were also swallowed up by the storm.....Listening to the guys that live here, it seems that it's continued on for two weeks.」

「T, two weeks!? Even abnormal weather is something I would be asking for. It's enough to say that this is a definite, it's the effect of "something".」

It was a situation where you could say "if that wasn't it, then what could it be".

「But still, two weeks, huh.....They've held out well.」

With two weeks, they should have started running out of food and other various things.....

「Other than us, there were also several merchant ships that were swallowed up as well. Moreover, among the monsters of the Dungeon, there were some pretty delicious ones.....Well, there isn't a problem with the food situation at present.」

Being practical in this situation was pretty amazing.
Even so, this situation, it's pretty bad.

「I understand that this is an abnormality. But, as long as we don't know the cause of it, we can't do anything.」

That's right. If the opponent were an entity like an Ancient Dragon or the Demon Lord, it could still be put to an end if they were defeated.

But when it comes to disasters on a global scale, I can't do anything about it.

「.....The cause of the disaster is in the Dungeon.....or so it seems.」

「The Dungeon? Why do you know something like that?」

「An Elf woman calling herself a scholar said so. Though, as for the reason, we don't know it.」

.....Jeez, this has become something really troublesome. At this rate, the ship can't leave, and, just for argument's sake, even if we could leave, we can't just leave things like this.....

「.....I guess there's no other choice but to dive in.」

Though I'm afraid of ghosts. Thought I'm afraid of ghosts!

「O, oi! Where are you goin'!?!」

When I stand up, Angelica also stood up, looking flustered.

「Even if I am going dive in, I'll do it tomorrow. It looks like it will be a long distance after all. I'll buy what I need to buy, and dive in after my companions come back.」

「Ah, take us along with you. If we don't have a Magic Stone, our ship can't move! We'll make it so that we won't get in your way so please.....!」

「.....Tomorrow morning, we'll assemble at this bar. Be sure to dress yourselves appropriately, got it?」

It's a pain to take them along, but I'm not able to judge Magic Stones. There's no way around it.

「We did it, Nee-san!」

「If we accompany them on the conquering of the Dungeon, our names will also get famous, Nee-san!」

「You nitwits! Refer to me as Captain!!」

「「Aye, Captain!!」」

Seeing the Three Stooges make a racket as if they were in the prime of their lives, I was already starting to regret things.

Translator's Notes:

[1] Damned English. For those that don't understand or are saying that there is no difference, the kanji for pirates, or "kaizoku", has the kanji for "sea". The Sky Pirates thing was originally this: 空賊 (スカイパイレーツ). The kanji for "sea" was replaced with the kanji for "sky" and is literally read as "Sky Pirates"

Chapter 99 - The Preceding Hero and the Elf Woman

*

Even during the next day, the storm didn't stop.

However, there was a big change in the weather.

「.....Are you serious.」

The rain that poured like an overturned bucket stopped, and the winds that shook the windows stopped.

But, as if to wrap up this single island of Nordyord, the winds were coiling around it.

Even though the other side of the wind was dark and had rain falling in waves, this Nordyord had a pleasant breeze and the light of the sun shining down on it.

「It somewhat feels like I've come to a last dungeon.」

It was a fairytale-like scene, but I saw it as ominous. It was because of that, as a person that was about to dive into a Dungeon, I could only think of it as an ill omen.



Taking along Silber, who was fully equipped with things like bedding, a lantern and food, and arriving at the bar, I had Silber, who was delighted from having luggage attached all over his body, wait in front of the bar and then went inside.

「Now then, the two of them are.....Oh, there they are. Heh?」

When I entered the bar, the two of them were sitting at a table close to the counter. And then, a female Elf that I wasn't familiar with was also sitting at the same table as Bernadette and Kuon.

The area around her eyes was half hidden with her dull blonde hair, and her eyes that could be seen through the gaps of her hair, maybe because

her hair was shading over them, had an unbelievably unpleasant look to them.

With a hunched back, she had a t-shirt and short pants that made her thighs dazzling under her kinked white robe, and black knee socks.

.....H, how should I say this, she's a unique woman.

I guess you could say it had the impression that various components were rolled up together and it all just collapsed?

While thinking such a rude thing, when I get closer while lightly waving my hand, the two wave back looking like they noticed me.

.....Elf-san is kind of totally glaring at me. Is this the so-called "that"?

That girl complex of how she originally has a mean look in her eyes and only looks like she's glaring but is actually just really shy



.....That's not how it looks at all!!

「Aniki～!」

「Good morning, Yashiro-san!」

「O, ou. Did I keep you waiting?」

When I tried to sit in the open seat, Elf-san's look became even stronger.

「We just got here as well. Yashiro-san, about the storm, how much did you learn about it?」

Bernadette came asking that question as soon as I took a seat. She went and asked this kind of question. She's probably heard about most of it.

「Only to a certain extent. It would seem that a scholar said that the cause was in this Dungeon.....」

When I reply, Kuon and Bernadette peek over at the sharp-eyed Elf-san. I thought it might be possible going by the white robe she wore but.....it seems that it was this person.

「I'll introduce her to you, Yashiro-san. This is Fiona-san, the archeologist. She is the one that ascertained that this Dungeon was the cause.」

.....Fiona? Ahh, it's a person with the same name. I was surprised because I have an Elf among the people that I know with the name Fiona.

「Hello, I'm called Yuu. Yuu Yashiro.」

When I held out my hand for a handshake, Fiona-san, after alternately looking at me and my hand, breathed a deep sigh.

「That's quite an attitude to take towards a comrade that passed through the points of life and death together with you, isn't it. Yuu」

「.....Ha?」

I received a deep shock from her words that was bigger than when she turned her sharp look towards me.

「Are the two of you acquaintances?」

「No, sorry but I don't know her. I do have an Elf I know with the same name but.....」

When I denied Bernadette's question, Fiona-san moved her hand around to her waist, and took something out.

That was a dagger that was sheathed in its scabbard. If I had to mention its characteristics, it would be that its grip was long for a dagger.

「Even after seeing this.....will you still say that?」

Fiona-san drew the dagger from its scabbard.....That sword was,

「It's.....broken?」

It wasn't a dagger. That sword that was probably originally a long sword blade was broken up in the middle.

.....It was a broken sword.

「If it's you, you should know the name of this Magic Sword, right?」

「.....Magic Sword 『Soulzambar』[\[1\]](#)」

Starting with Maryoku Recovery, it was a Magic Sword that possessed several rare skills.....or it was a sword.

Although it was superior because of its abilities, as an illogical result of the sword being broken with prudence, in the end, it became something that was handed over to Fiona who was a Leezelion Imperial Court Magician.

That fact that she has that means that this Fiona-san is the Fiona-san that I know.....

No no! I'm sorry for saying this, but their appearances are as different as heaven and earth, you know!?

The Fiona I know, although she had a small chest, she had white skin and gold hair that seemed transparent. Her almond eyes weren't sharp nor coercive, and the bright green one piece and the hide belt that wrapped around her waist and torso was her only lightweight equipment.....with that, she had the appearance of what you could call a standard sample of an Elf.

Like the pioneer “my waifu” Doedlot-san from Odoss War!

「It seems like you still don't believe me. In that case, I'll put out my trump card.」

「T, trump card?」

It's probably not my place to say this since I don't believe her but, to be frank, there isn't any more proof other than this, is there?

When I put myself on guard, Fiona put up three fingers.

「The number of, my panties that you ruined.」

「So you're Fiona!? It's been a whi-oaahh!?!」

With that conversation of a kind of secret that only I and Fiona herself would know about, I finally understood that it was her herself, but at that instant, I felt a forceful bloodlust that resembled an explosion coming from the side.

「That story, ...Could you tell me about it in detail?」

Bernadette stood up wearing an aura that went *gogogogogogo*. That look wouldn't separate from me.

Eh? Did I step on some kind of landmine?

「I somehow understand that Fiona-san is Yashiro-san's, former "comrade". Even in the Hero Biography series, a female Elf comrade appears after all. The problem is, Yashiro-san, could it be that you also know about what happened to my panties?」

Ah, I see. I forgot to return them.

Not good, I'm gonna be killed.

「Yuu has a habit of hiding things that he really treasures at the back of his collar.」

「Wah! My underwear really did come out from a place like this!」

With Fiona's advice, Bernadette took out underwear from my back collar.

「.....Yashiro-san. The next time you do something like this, I'm going to get mad, got it?」

「Ue? Y, yeah. I'm sorry.」

Seeing as how I had resolved myself to getting a gun muzzle pointed at

me and getting shot by that, Bernadette's reaction was anticlimactic, or rather, something gentle.

「.....Haa. Would it be alright, if we talk about the Dungeon?」

Fiona began talking with an amazed sounding voice.

「Yeah, if you would. How much do you know about it?」

Changing the stuff going on in my head, I turned around to Fiona.

「The capturing of it is unbelievably difficult. And then, this Dungeon being something that was man-made is all I have.」

「Man-made? And then, what you meant by difficult is.....」

Although Fiona's strength is also in her simple physical strength, her true strength is that of a scout.

Moreover, it was the investigation type that flourished in places like Dungeons.

In a place like this Dungeon, she surpassed anyone in the group.

As long as that Fiona to assert that it was difficult, it meant it wasn't for the half-hearted.

How it hasn't been conquered is proof of that.

「Yuu, the problem is the latter.....It being man-made is a serious matter.」

「Eh? Is it?」

I thought that the things called Dungeons were things where monsters started to live in places that people built but.....

「Hold on a second, Elf-nee-chan. Are you saying that someone made a "labyrinth"!?」

Believing in what she heard, an astonished voice was leaked out by Kuon.

「What do you mean by that?」

「Bernadette-nee-chan, labyrinths originally have two patterns. One is when many monsters gather in buildings created by people, resulting in a

monster nest that produces monsters. And then the other is when monsters settle down in something like a cave, resulting in a natural labyrinth. Both result in the same thing, but whether it was a place naturally made or if it was a place built by people, their respective foundations are different. However, what this Elf-nee-chan is trying to say is that this labyrinth is neither of those. It means that someone intentionally made a “labyrinth”.」

I see, so that’s why it’s a man-made labyrinth.

「So? Does that mean that the reason this labyrinth is the cause of the storm is because it’s man-made?」

「Yes. Once, there was an evil deity that tried to conquer the world with this island as its headquarters. This labyrinth is a sealing apparatus for that evil deity.」

「Evil deity? Does that mean, that it’s stronger than the Demon Lord?」

Going by the kanji, an evil deity does seem stronger than the Demon Lord.

Rather, is it possible to seal something like a guy that’s stronger than the Demon Lord?

「That’s impossible. The evil deity is just what the people called it on their own out of fear. And for argument’s sake, if the evil deity were stronger than the Demon Lord, a sealing apparatus like this wouldn’t be able to hold it. However, since it’s confined in something like this, it’s definite that it is something troublesome.....」

Fiona folded her arms and groaned.
Troublesome, huh.....Speaking of troublesome.....

「H, hey. Is it alright if I just bust my way straight down with the Sacred Sword?」

Personally, that was the most troublesome thing of all.

「You can’t, fool. Isn’t that obvious? These are historic ruins, you know? It’s making use of technology of the past, you know? I’m amazed that you

would dare say such a stupid thing in front of me, got that? Aren't you just an idiot?」

Ahahaha. That's what I thought.

Translator's Notes:

[1] Can't think of a good spelling for this: ソウルザンバー

Chapter 100 - The Preceding Hero's Natural Enemy?

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Even among the many Elves that love historic ruins and history, Fiona especially had a mania for them, and it was a time where I was thinking about how I should cut her off as she was tediously talking about the charms of historic ruins.

「Fufun. We've kept ya waiting, haven't we, black hair.」
「Kept ya waiting, black hair!」

Taking along the tall lanky man and the short man who were carrying a large amount of luggage, Angelica the female pirate appeared. In addition to her appearance from yesterday, Angelica had a large cutlass and a pistol (well, since those don't exist in this world, is it a Magic Gun?) hanging from the belt on her waist, and a black eyepatch with a skull drawn on it hid her right eye. I guess you could say, she's gotten really into it.

「Uh~m.....Are they your acquaintances, Yashiro-san?」

Seeing the beauty that seemed like a disappointment going by her appearance and the two men behind her, Bernadette asked that looking like she wanted me to deny it.

「I'm sorry to say that they are my acquaintances.」

Yeah, it seems that Bernadette really wanted me to deny it. She held her head and let out a sigh.

「Ya can't go saying foolish things, black hair. You are going to become our 『Black Rose Sky Pirates』's vice-captain. We're not acquaintances, but c•rew•mates, right?」

Maybe because she didn't like my introduction of them, Angelica patted my shoulder and smile with a broad grin.

「I totally didn't say that I'd become your crewmate.」

Please spare me from being treated like a crewmate of pirates on your own like that.

「.....Aniki. These guys reek of being amateurs but who are they?」

Kuon asked that while turning a gaze that looked like she was evaluating them towards Angelica's group.

The amateur that Kuon mentioned probably meant 『amateurs in combat』.

Maybe because she became conscious of the muscles on other people's body ever since she started her special training, Kuon noticed that the bodies of Angelica's group weren't bodies oriented towards combat.

「They're acquaintances from the past. They opposed us, made use of us.....Well, they aren't decent acquaintances.」

Maybe because Kuon understood my answer, she muttered 「I see」and slowly drank the water that was in her hand.

「.....Yuu, does that mean that you came burdened with something troublesome again?」

「Don't say that, Fiona.」

I'm also thinking that they're absurdly troublesome right now.

「Now then Black Hair, let's go on the Magic Stone hunt! What we're aiming for is a gigantic Magic Stone the size of a fist!」

「Ah~, about that.....mind if I bring these three along?」

Putting one leg on the open seat, Angelica, having drawn out her cutlass, made an exultant pose like a ship captain that ordered to set sail, and talked about the objective.

When I pointed out Bernadette and Kuon and then Fiona to that Angelica and then asked that, Angelica brightened her whole faced smile even more.

「I don't mind, seeing as how it's a request of a crewmate. Don't worry, with this, you three are also part of the 『Black Rose Pirates』!」

「I didn't mean it as an invitation!」

「What, so it's not. Well, if they won't hold us back, I don't mind thinking

about it.」

「In terms of battle potential, you Three Stooges are the useless one, dammit!」

Damn her. I didn't think that I'd be completely on the tsukkomi making side.

But it can't be helped.

Among Bernadette and the other two, who were quickly taking their distance away from Angelica's group, there wasn't a capable person that could be left with making the tsukkomis.

Bernadette had kind of become docile recently, and in terms of type, Kuon was on the boke side.

In regards to Fiona, she doesn't have groundings in being the tsukkomi maker nor being the boke character. I especially can't let her do the tsukkomis. She'd continue her tedious sermon with a severe tone until you became distrustful of other people.

In regards to that area, Sylvia was suited as the tsukkomi maker, wasn't she. Though, I was more or less just struck with her fist.

Damn it, I came to another world, and here I am seriously thinking about tsukkomi and boke roles.

「.....Enough. Let's just hurry up and dive into the labyrinth.」

So, compared to the Three Stooges whose tension was at its climax, my tension was amazingly low.

We placed the money for the bill on the table, and left our seats.



「Come to think of it, Yuu, what's the color of your Guild Card?」

「Ha? What the heck, saying something out of the blue again.....」

We arrived at the labyrinth's entrance that was under the Nordyord Guild's management, but Fiona suddenly asked that seeming like she just remembered it.

「It's not a topic that isn't related to the labyrinth. So, what color is it? Hurry up and answer me.」

Placing her hands on her waist, Fiona glared at me. Although there should be a correction about her face, this time she really glared at me.
「Publicly, it's 『Purple』 for C.」

「And?」

「.....Technically, I also have a 『Black』 for SSS.」

「I thought so.」

When I said that with a low voice so that Bernadette and the others wouldn't hear, as if to say that was only natural, Fiona went "good grief" and breathed a sigh.

「What the heck, right when you suddenly ask something, you go and breathe a sigh all on your own.」

「I was amazed at the degree that Norn-sama spoils you. Even though having things be more or less difficult for you would be just right for you.」

「.....Just explain it to me already.」

Talking while leaving people behind. That was Fiona's bad habit.

「Even though I look like this, I am a renowned scholar. So, thinking that it would be the world's loss if that renowned scholar were to be lost, the Guild placed the shackles called guard on me, and won't let me do research. Seriously, it's an unpleasant story.」

「And?」

「Could you stop urging me on? I won't talk if you don't, you know?」
Why you little, even though you urged me on.....

「And that's where you come in, Yuu. Those guys of the Guild will definitely come in making a fuss in my research. However, although it's from a different area, if a 『SSS Rank』 that a Guildmaster employed comes along, they shouldn't have any complaints. Or rather, I won't let them say any.」

Fiona declared that awfully filled with a lot of confidence.
But this is her we're talking about. She'd threaten you with a curse or something.

「With that being the case, if they try to say something, quickly show them the Guild Card and silence them, got it?」

「I don't really want to show it, you know~.」

Me having the highest Guild Rank, I'm AMAZZZINGG!, is something that I don't particularly want to say.

Rather, I just want to have a peaceful journey.

I want to retire. Just like the title says.

「Since them troublesomely sticking their heads in no matter how much you say you don't want them will be the punchline in the end, just give it up already.」

I said that to Fiona, flat out refusing her. Damn, that was such a sound argument, she can't object it.

「.....You know, I really hate that part about you, Yuu.」

「Mu.....」

Straightening out her bent back, Fiona turned her sharp eyes towards me. From the sudden serious conversation, I couldn't think of words to reply with.

.....Honestly speaking, we were comrades three years ago, but I didn't do well with Fiona, and Fiona also didn't have any good emotions towards me.

「Despite possessing such great power, you say you 『don't want to』 and run away from that responsibility. Even though that power, is meant for the 『world』.....」

Hu, the sounds of the surroundings disappeared. It was the magic, Silent.

「Fiona, I understand what you want to say. But I.....」

「No, you don't understand a single thing, Yuu. As proof of that, you're in a place like this. In a place like this, you're wasting time.」

In Fiona's eyes, I could even feel hostility. She detested me, who wouldn't fulfill his responsibility.

Chapter 101 - Gaze

*

『Hero』

Just how much hope and desire is put into that one word.
The opposite of the Demon Lord that destroys the world. The messiah that will save this world.

.....I, that 『Hero』, am ignoring those people that seek 『salvation』, and am now on a journey to tour the world.

As if running away, from the dark emotions that are similar to a curse, that is placed into the word 『Hero』.



「.....! Yashiro-san!」

「Nn? Is something wrong?」

Since I was spacing out too much and looked like my awareness had flown away, I was called out to by Bernadette and right there, I remembered that I was on the verge of marching into a labyrinth.

「Don't "is something wrong?" me! I've been calling you for a while now!」
Bernadette inflated her cheeks and was indignant.

「Sorry, sorry. So? Did we get permission?」

Fiona, who reported to the Guild that managed the labyrinth that she was going to dive into the labyrinth, was stopped as if it were only natural.

When I showed the black Guild Card just as planned, the inside of the Guild was in an uproar from top to bottom.

Unable to make a decision on the spot, they asked that we meet with the Guild Master, but Fiona refused this. She told them to hurry up and get the Guild Master's permission.

Looks like her usual hatred for influential people hasn't changed

「That's why I was calling you. Jeez, Yashiro-san. You've been spacing out the whole time.」

「Ah~, sorry, sorry.」

When I stood up trying to run away while thinking "is this going to be a sermon?", in the corner of my vision, something black took flight.

「A bat? What is it doing in a place like this?」

It was an ordinary bat that had a body that looked like it be placed on the palm of my hand and had wings that spread out to several times bigger than that body.

.....That's right, it was an ordinary bat.

「Yashiro-san!」

「Ah, yeah. I get it.」

When I thought “What is an ordinary bat doing in a place like this?”, I made myself consent to the idea that it probably gone astray and came here from the labyrinth, and then I walked over to the place where Fiona and Kuon and the others were waiting.

Up until the moment I removed my gaze from the bat, I felt the sensation that the bat was conversely looking at us.



That place was a small space that used stones like they were bricks. The fire of the torches hanging on the walls illuminated the stairway of the labyrinth whose interior had been filled with darkness.

「Now then! It's the 『Black Rose Sky Pirates』' first job!」

「『Roger that, Nee-san!』」

「You nitwits! Call me using Captain. Using Captain!」

In front of the entrance to the labyrinth, Angelica folded her arms and let out an encouraging yell.

Not feeling in the mood to make a halfhearted tsukkomi, I stroked the beak of Silber, who was carrying a large amount of luggage on his back. 「Before we enter the labyrinth, I'm going to give you a light explanation about this 『Nordyard』 Labyrinth.」

Wearing glasses that she pulled out from somewhere, Fiona started talking.

「This labyrinth is a fixed-model labyrinth, so it's a type where maps are effective. Mapping has been done up until sub-floor 31.」

As she said that, Fiona pulled a thick book out from inside her white robe. 「Elf Nee-chan, is that a map?」

「While it is a map, it is also all of the information that was confirmed in this labyrinth.」

Fiona handed over the book to Kuon in response to her words. It probably meant that she wanted her to check it herself.

Kuon opened a page and became speechless. The information volume written on each and every page was incredible, and closely packed explanatory notes were written on the side of the maps.

「.....Uwah, this is amazing. Things like the monster that come out and characteristic of the floor are even written in here.」

So in other words, it's a walkthrough book. Well, since the subject of it hasn't been conquered yet, it isn't complete, so it's probably more like a walkthrough of the opening of a game that goes together with the game on the day it goes on sale. Though, this one is handwritten.

「Sub-floor 30.....Fiona, we can't tell whether this is shallow or deep, can we?」

「I intuitively think that it's plenty deep but.....as I thought, without any positive proof, I can't come up with a conclusion.」

Fiona let out a sigh, and then she took a long and narrow glass utensil that looked like a test tube out from the holster meant for a dagger that was attached to her thigh.

「A potion?」

「It's a Mana potion. It's a special make.」

When I asked that while thinking that I had a recollection of the emerald green liquid that was inside the test tube, Fiona corrected me.

「This Dungeon has a Transfer Magic Formation laid out every ten floors. I was the one that laid them out.」

「I see, so that means that we can go down until floor 30, correct?」

When she nodded to Bernadette's words, Fiona turned the test tube upside down and poured the medicine into her mouth.

「Kuhah.....Let's go.」

Extremely distorting her face for an instant, Fiona instantly restored her facial expression.

Maybe it's disgusting enough to break down her cool character, that potion.

「—『gate』, Activate」

When Fiona activated the magic, a line of light ran at the bottom of our feet, and started to mold the magic formation.

That performance, or perhaps I should say, expansion speed, I guess that's to be expected of an Elf.

「.....Hey, hey, Aniki. I guess it's a little late to be saying this now, but is Transfer Magic something that can be used on a person themselves?」

Gazing at the state of the creation of that magic formation, Kuon asked that with a low voice.

She probably did that out of consideration so as not to reduce the Magician's concentration.

「It depends on the situation, but the possibility certainly is there.」

Transfer Magic. It was the so-called Teleportation magic.

Among the Transfer Magics, there are several varieties, like the Wormhole model that opens up a hole that ties one target to another target.

And then there's the Teleport model that sends things to the target's place.

The Transfer Magic Formation in Lizwadia's Clock Tower was the latter Teleport model.

The ones that were placed in my glove and weapons were the Wormhole model Transfer Magic Formation.

If it's for personal use, the Wormhole model is the limit, while the Teleport model is something that can't be activated unless there is large-scale operation equipment.

In Lizwadia's case, it needed a magic formation that drew Maryoku from the leyline, which was an enormous stream of Maryoku.

「In that case, is it possible to instantly go around to an opponent's back and go 『I'm behind you!』, is it!?!」

Kuon had her eyes sparkling. I understand what she wanted to say. I was also in her place once, and had a time where I embraced the same thought after all.

The time when I had fallen ill to the invisible illness known as Chuunibyou.

「Unfortunately, that isn't something that can be used in battle. Transfer magic needs to accurately know your current coordinates and the aimed coordinates. In the middle of battle, you can't quickly operate such concentration, and it's possible to do what you said if you use 『Shukuchi』.」

Kuon nodded saying "I guess that's true".

Transfer Magic was no good, but it might be good to teach her some other general magic. There's no loss to remembering them after all.

When I was thinking such a thought, Bernadette came and poked me at my side.

「Wait, baka, that tickles.」

When I turned to her, Bernadette had a serious expression and was looking around at the vicinity.

「What's wrong?」

「I can feel a gaze. It's from someone other than us.」

Being told that by Bernadette, I also looked around the vicinity, from the stairway that extended down to the next floor of the labyrinth to the several stone torchlights that hung on the walls and were the sole light sources for this room.

I couldn't see anything odd in this room.

「Sorry. I can't sense anything other than bloodlust. Oi, Kuon. Kuon.」

When I called Kuon, who was looking at the walkthrough book together with the Three Stooges, with a low voice, Kuon's ears straightened up and then she turned her head and came over to me.

「What's up? Yashiro-aniki.」

Koten, Kuon tilted her head. Dammit, that was pretty cute.

She has a well-featured body the more that I look at her. Of course, as a girl.

Her chest isn't all that big, but being slim in general, I guess I should say she has a model's body.

「What are you doing turning perverted eyes towards your own disciple!?!」

Seeming like my thoughts were exposed, Bernadette looked at me with scornful eyes while pulling my earlobe.

Since it felt like it had been a long time since Bernadette had returned to

her original self, I felt kind of happy.

「I, I'm sorry. Kuon, can you feel a gaze?」

When I asked that to Kuon while my earlobe was being pulled, she was surprised with a 「Heh?」.

Jean also said that Kuon's strong point was sensing presences. We should go to a specialist for the best results.

「By gaze.....Do you not mean Sister-nee-chan's hot gaze towards you, Aniki?」

「Tha, that's wrong! While it's certainly true that I've been looking at him the whole time, but it wasn't hot! That's a false accusation!」

Bernadette went into a panic while her face turned bright red. What you mean by a false charge, huh!

Well, putting the jokes aside, it would seem that Kuon hasn't noticed the gaze.

「It seems that there is a gaze from something other than us but.....」

「Heh—.....I found it.」

Her fox ears standing up straight, when Kuon looked around at the vicinity, in an instant, she located the origin of the gaze.

「.....A bat?」

The bat that I saw before was hanging upside down right in a corner of the ceiling that had become shadowed.

「.....It looks like it was watching Aniki's group. Though, maybe because it knows that it was discovered by me, it's now turned its senses towards me as well.」

Kuon's eyes gradually became sharper, and at the end, she started to emit a light bloodlust.

「Oi oi, don't jump the gun over a simple bat.」

Although I said that with a smile to Kuon, I myself certainly felt an intense foreboding.

I felt a bad premonition for the first time in a while.

「.....No, it isn't just a bat!!」

Jyaki Pulling out a Magic Gun with a speed so fast that even my eyes only saw a blur, Bernadette shot a Maryoku bullet faster than she could establish her aim.

「Wha.....っ!?!」

It was anticipated that the Maryoku bullet would shoot down the bat going by the bullet trajectory, but that anticipation was greatly derailed.

『Kikiki.....Quite the belligerent nun. As expected of one of the miko bloodline.』

Together with a sensation that felt like it was tampering with the inside of my head, a charming voice that seemed to eat into my mind resounded in my head.

Bekin.

「!? My aria, it was erased.....っ!?!」

Together with a sound that seemed like something had broken off, Fiona groaned.

「Ah.....Ahh.....!」

And then, Bernadette, who saw that her Maryoku bullet had disappeared in mid-air, looked at the being that got down right before her eyes while her body was trembling.

「Wha, wh-wh-wh, what in the world is that!?!」

「You guys, shut up for a bit! っ!!」

「Kukehーっ!」

Kuon and Silber stood in front of Angelica's group, who was making a fuss over the being that suddenly appeared, and took their stance.

『Kiki, to think that a miko would visit my awakening as if it were prearranged. This truly is fortuitous!』

What peeked out from that thing's smirking mouth were sharp canines that made one tremble with fear.

It grew bat wings from its waist, and its golden eyes that cast a bewitching light looked like they were jewels.

Possessing pallid skin that looked like it gone pale, it was a Vampire Princess that was beautiful enough to make you go mad.

Chapter 102 - The True Ancestor Vampire Princess

*

Wind thunderously danced about, and the flames of the torches greatly flared up.

In this room that wasn't all that spacious, a dense Maryoku was madly overflowing. Enough to make you choke on it.

「Kikiki.....You need not be on guard like that, one of the miko lineage.」

The Vampire Princess snickered at Bernadette, who had pointed the muzzles of her two guns at the Vampire Princess.

Together with a fascinating smile that would captivate all that would see it, Maryoku of a Mazoku, which would drive a person to hatred, was emitted even more.

「Granddaughter of the Great Demon Lord Belzebeaut who was sung as the『Makai Commander-in-Chief』, I am 『Paimon』!! Kikiki, I am one that leads an army of two hundred and have devoted mine self to trampling down the world!! Descendant of the Miko, I allow you to kneel before me!」

Pointing her finger towards the sky, the Vampire Princess that named herself as such, declared that while “looking up” at us.

「.....Ah—, try giving your name one more time.」

「Mu? Kiki, it would seem that you could not follow due to sheer terror, does it not? Very well, once more, I shall inform you of my name!」

That, small Mazoku that a height that only reached the area of my belly button, laughed with a complacent smile, put her hand on her waist, and puffed out her non-existent chest.

「Granddaughter of the Great Demon Lord Belzebeaut who was sung as the『Makai Commander-in-Chief』, I am 『Paimon』!! Kikiki, I am one that leads a whole army of two hundred and have devoted myself to trampling down the world! Kikiki! How is it, how is it? Scared, are you not? Scared, are you not? Well, that is also something that cannot be helped!

After all, I am a vampire. A True Ancestor after all! Kikiki! I wonder if that was a bit too stimulating for the children of the humble gods and for the children of foolish man? U-ha-ha-ha-ha!!」

「Why is it like this.....Why is it that the lolis that gather around me have outrageous personalities?」

Baba-chan is definitely one.

Actually, are Baba-chan and this Vampire the only ones?

If Alicia, who is Sylvia's little sister, were to be included as a loli, then another two or three would be added.

「Yashiro-san! Please don't be deceived just because she has the appearance of a child! She may have the figure of a child, but she is unmistakably a Mazoku!」

Bernadette shot a sharp look through the loli Vampire that named herself as Paimon. After this, you and I are going to have a private talk.

「Kiki. It is just as that one of miko lineage says, but since it will become a nuisance for now, that mouth, I guess I shall have it closed up.」

When she said that, Paimon made a motion as if she were closing up her own mouth with a zipper.

「!? Mu~!!」

When she did, Bernadette's mouth was tightly fastened. Since it looked like she was struggling to open her mouth, it probably meant that she didn't close it out of her own will.

It was only for an instant, but the Vampire's golden eyes suspiciously shined. There was no mistake that it was the deed of this loli Vampire.

「Kikiki. In both today and in the past, the ones of miko lineage were never ones that would listen after all.」

Paimon made a cackling laugh like a child, which suited her appearance.

Not sensing any intent of hostility in her state, I commanded Bernadette with my hand.

「Calm down, Bernadette. It doesn't look like she wants to fight.」

Bernadette shouted out 「Are you going to believe a Mazoku!？」 with her eyes.

「I'm just going to listen to her story. And if need be, I'll cut off her head and throw her outside.」

Though I'm seriously opposed to that idea since she has the appearance of a little girl.

「Hou. So you know how to deal with True Ancestors. How rare. Even though there were many that did not know the coping method even in my heyday. Moreover, for one of your lineage, you are a boy of fairly steady spirit. Well done, very well done.」

Looking like she admired my words, Paimon looked at me. I only knew because, in the past, Baba-chan made me read a book titled 『Ways to Defeat the Strongest Species That Even a Monkey Could Understand』, which obviously made fun of the reader. My purpose for reading it at that time was for the way to defeat a dragon but, as I was starving for information on another world at the time, I devoted myself to reading that hardcover book.

There existed two kinds of Vampires.

A variation that was a former human that had their blood sucked by a Vampire and had only the same amount of Vampire blood inserted into them.

And then, ones that became a Vampire outside of the afore-mentioned method, regardless of whether it was acquired or innate, were called True Ancestors.

The True Ancestor Vampire's immortal nature was tremendous, and the things that were thought to be effective on Vampires mostly had no effect. Both the light of sun and a stake of pure silver aren't able to directly kill a True Ancestor.

In particular, on moonlit nights, no matter the method, they 『absolutely cannot be killed』.

The sole method of killing them was to kill them in broad daylight where

they are in a situation of being hit with sunlight.

Although they don't turn to ash from the sunlight, they get greatly weakened, and their immortality is brought down to that of human's. However, it would be hard to get such a situation to happen in the first place.

Needless to say, it was because Vampires are nocturnal.

「(Lineage?).....So, what business does a True Ancestor Vampire have with us?」

Although I didn't feel any hostility, unable to feel relieved, I stuck my hand into the fourth dimensional pouch that was on my waist, and put myself on guard so that I could draw my sword at any time.

「Kikiki.....”What business?” That's quite a contemptible remark.」

Paimon laughed while showing her sharply pointed canines. But, those eyes of hers weren't laughing at all and a shiver ran through my spine.

「A “human” possessing that black hair and deep black eyes that look like obsidian.....You are unmistakably of the miko lineage. One with consanguinity to those that sealed me in this earth! In response to you of miko lineage, I intend to have you receive my outburst of anger towards your predecessors.」

With a *Tsutsu~*, Paimon slowly pointed a finger at me. At the moment I put myself on guard thinking “is it an attack?”, I realized the error that I made.

「Oh cra.....!?!」

「Kikiki! You are a boy with good sense. But you are too late. You have already fallen for my trick!」

I couldn't separate my eyes from the tip of Paimon's finger. I couldn't move my legs, nor my arms.

Said to only be usable by superior beings even among Mazoku, it was hypnotism.

(This is.....bad!)

As for what was bad was, that I didn't think that she would be this superior of a Mazoku.

Right now, this loli Vampire had grasped the right of life or death over me!!

「Kikiki, worry not. Though I had said outburst of anger, I shall not do anything like tear you limb from limb.」

Paimon patted my head and laughed.
That body of hers gradually became bigger.

「Gigantification!? N, no.....That's not it!」

Paimon wasn't the only one that was becoming bigger.
Even this room that was the entrance to the labyrinth had become bigger.
It was as if everything other than me was getting bigger!

「M, m-m-m, my body is—!!」

My clothes became loose, and my equipment fell to the ground.
My body that became exposed from the loose clothing was no less than two times smaller, and had become a height that was not much different from that of Paimon's height!!

Chapter 103 - The Preceding Hero, Becomes Smaller

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「Wha, what did you do—!」

How could this loli Vampire do such a thing? I don't know what trick she pulled but she made me.....she made me young enough to be an elementary school brat!

「Kiki! Tis but an application of my secret art.」

「Wh, why you.....How dare you make me have this kind of appearance!」

I didn't want to fight her since she had the appearance of a little girl, but it seems that she needs to get a bit of a scolding.

Kicking up my fourth dimensional pouch, which had been wrapped around my waist but had now fallen now that my body had become smaller, with my shoes that had become too big for me, I stuck my hand into the pouch and pulled out a crystal sword.

「If you return me back to normal right now, I'll forgive you. But if you don't.」

「Kiki. If I don't?」

When I remove the scabbard by making it fall off since it was too difficult to draw the sword from the scabbard, I pointed the sword tip at Paimon.

Yet, despite having the sword tip pointed towards her, Paimon didn't change her composed looking face.

「Then.....Be prepared to lose an arm to, uoh!?!」

When I tried to rush in and swing my sword, the sword slipped out of my hands, and it got stuck into the ceiling.

The cause of it was that the size of the sword's handle was hard to grip with the hands of a child.

「If you wish to restore that body to normal, then come to my location.

.....I shall be waiting, one of the miko lineage! Kiki, kikikiki!!」

When she left those words with us, Paimon turned into countless bats and went into the labyrinth's entrance and left.

「.....Wh, what the heck was that.」

Suddenly appearing, then suddenly leaving. Moreover, throwing in a freebie of turning a person into a child.

I do think that this kind of outrageous thing really is very Mazoku-like though.....

「Still.....We've made another reason to dive into the labyrinth.」

As I muttered that while cracking my neck, *Pon*, a hand was placed on my shoulder.

「Nn?」

「Th, there's no need to return you to normal, Yashiro-san!」

「.....Haa?」

When I turn my head, there was a cheeks dyed red and rough nasal breathing Bernadette standing there.

.....Erm.....Huh? That's Bernadette, right? It's not a mistake in my vision or something, right?

「Be, Bernadette-san? What in the world is wrong with you? Ah, come to think of it, it looks like the hypnotism was remov—」

「Haa...Haah....., ...Please try saying.....O, Onee-chan.」

You just now lost that something that you were recently building up. R, rather, what's going on? This Bernadette's strange condition.....Could it be that some kind of charm was invoked now that my body became like this or something!?

「Fiona! Am I cool!?!」

「.....Ha? What kind of foolish thing are you saying now?」

Alright, going by this reaction, it would seem that a charm wasn't invoked or anything.

Rather, since it was a joke, don't look at me with those cold eyes that look like you're looking at a pig from a pig farm.

「Uwah—, uwah—! Yashiro-san, Yashiro-san! You are really cute! Yashiro-san, I thought that you were more of a plain-faced, impure eyed person, but when you were small, you were really cute, weren't you!」

「Could you please stop gouging out a person's heart with a face that is nothing but smiles!? R, rather, get away from me! You're character has become stran-mofuu!？」

「I—don't—want—to! Ahaha! I'm so happy since it's like I just got a cute little brother!」

Th, this girl, treating a person like some toy.....B, but, being held in between these huge breasts when being hugged sure is nice. It's really comfortable.....Wait, what the heck am I thinking.

「K, Kuon! Help me out, damn it!」

「Ah—, nevertheless, what should we do? Diving in like this.....We can't possibly do that, can we?」

When I called out to the dumbfounded Kuon while I was struggling within Bernadette's arms, Kuon turned her eyes away from me while scratching her cheek, and started to talk with Fiona.

Look here, I'm your Shishou, aren't I? I'm, technically your Shishou, right?

「That is correct. At the very least, it is currently impossible. It's questionable as to how much Yuu can fight after all.....It would seem that the Transfer Magic Formation that I spread out earlier has lost its ability to function.....No, it looks like the magic formation has vanished.」

Hey, since it looks like there's a serious conversation going on right now, let go of me, Bernadette!

「Three Stooges, lend me a hand!」

「Fu fu fu fu fu. Looks like the Black Hair that harshly got in our way now has an awfully adorable appearance now! You should just get loved by that Sister as much as possible. It's that thing called getting what you

deserve!」

「「What you deserve!」」

「These guys.....」

Damn it, each and every one of them are useless!

「Yuu, how long are you going to be playing around, we're temporarily leaving for now. Good grief, thanks to a certain someone, all we did is pass time.」

「It's not like I'm playing around—! Rather, that someone isn't about me—right!」

Fiona went back to the road we came on and Kuon and the Three Stooges followed her.

Hey, damn it, I'm telling you guys to do something about Bernadette!

「Si, Silber!」

「Kukeh—」

Ah! You, wait, don't ignore me, who is technically your master!

「Ah, that's right. We need to buy Yashiro-san some new Western-style clothes. Though, it would be nice if there are some cute clothes.」

「It's true that the clothes that I came with up until now no longer fit my size. But, however! I'm absolutely not going to wear something like cute clothes, got that!?!」

「Ufufu, please leave it all to Bernadette-onee-chan! First, I need to get the measurements.....」

「Wait, you, where are you touching.....Ah—ツ!」

Today, on this day, I tasted a feeling of despair as if I had lost something precious.



The next day, we had gathered at the bar once again, but there was one person that we weren't used to seeing that was present.

「Hawaa.....You really did get smaller. Like this, you certainly won't be able to wield a sword with one hand.」

It was the woman blacksmith whose height was so short that it was abnormal, Ahato.

.....No, even though I was made to have the appearance of a child, I'm still bigger than you, you know? I wonder if I should properly tell her that?

「Aniki is still tall than you though.」

Kuon, who was sitting in a chair, spoke in my place. Having been made to wait even though she thought that we would be diving into the Dungeon, it looks like she's in a bad mood.

「Th, that's because I'm a Dwarf.」

Ah—, so she really was a Dwarf. Among the species, the ones that had short height and specialized in work dealing with iron were Dwarfs and Hobbits.

Both specialized in doing finely detailed work, but of the blacksmiths that start with swords, an overwhelmingly large amount of them were Dwarfs (there are some Hobbit blacksmiths).

「So, why is Ahato-san the Dwarf here?」

Bernadette's voice came from right above me. However, even if I were to look up, I wouldn't see her face. It was because her voluptuous breasts would obstruct my vision. I think that one of the advantages to becoming smaller is that things feel bigger in a bodily sense. Thanks to that advantage, Bernadette's breasts which were originally big look even bigger.

Huge intensity. Nothing better than this one phrase.

And then, this was an advantage that only applied to Bernadette but, it seemed that this Bernadette had a shotacon inclination and was thoroughly sweet with me now that I had become small.

If I were to do a certain special something from being aroused by the weight of the breasts that were placed on top of my head, I originally would've had a gun muzzle thrust at me.

But, when the current me did it, Bernadette didn't refuse it. Rather, she'd hug me and give a service where she would instead embrace me with her body that felt great!

.....To be honest, I'm starting to think that it might be alright to stay with this appearance.

「I received a request from Fiona-san to contrive a weapon that looked like an acquaintance of hers that became smaller could use.」

When Ahato turned away and peeked over, Fiona, who was gazing at the labyrinth map, raised her head.

「Her skill is the genuine article. I'll vouch for her.」

「.....Is the thing about Elves and Dwarves not getting along something that I remembered wrong?」

Alternately looking at Fiona and Ahato, Angelica made a wry smile. Just as Angelica said, the fact that the Elf and Dwarf races were on absurdly bad terms with each other was very well known. Although it's not like they've gone to war with each other, but things similar to skirmishes always happen, and it was bad enough that if they were to bump into each other in town, a large-scale brawl would breakout.

.....So, since I had also recognized that fact, I was surprised by the two's words.

「That kind of thinking just nonsense of the countryside Elves that don't come out from deep in the forest. In this day and age, looking down on someone just because they're a Dwarf or a Human, and being immersed in self-satisfaction from it is just primitive.」

Ahato made a small laugh due to Fiona who declared something wholly unexpected.

「Maybe because I was raised by my grandfather that lived in a human town, I wasn't really exposed to that kind of stuff. He was a grandfather that would say 『Other than the ones that you can entrust the swords you forged with, they're all the same! 』.」

That's also quite the stereotypical craftsman.
Would it be a better image if I were to say it was a template?

「We've gone off topic, haven't we. So, do you have a weapon that Yuu might be able to use?」

Fiona peeked over and looked at me.
My body right now was a small size of the average elementary school child.
In regards to physical strength, though I have been weakened, since I'm far superior to an ordinary person even in this state, I could probably wield a weapon with ease if it's your average weapon.
However, if it's not a weapon that a child's palm can firmly grip, it'll be a repeat of what happened with the crystal sword.

「Yes. I had tried considering various things, but I still think that something like a long sword would be a safe bet.」

What she took out while saying that was a sword with a sword blade that looked like it was cut out of ice.

「A Magic Sword created from an Ice Magic Stone, its name is 『Ice Sword』! Here, take a look!」

I've obtained the Ice Sword I've always wanted!

.....It was a simple name that was just as it looked, but its performance was really something.

When I came down from Bernadette's lap, I accepted the Ice Sword.

「.....It's lighter than I expected. Is it Cost Down?」

「That is correct.」

When I took my stance holding the handle with both hands, it felt like a large sword due to my physique, but contrary to its appearance, it was light, making it have a weight that felt like I shouldn't wield it.

「So it has the impression of cutting things up with its specialized sharpness than cutting things down with its weight.....It's a good sword but since it seems like it'll be stolen, I'll pass.」

「Is it not to your liking?」

「It's not that I don't like it, but.....Th, that's it. Do you have something a bit sturdier? I can't help but feel scared since it feels like it would break.」

「In that case, how about this.....A Magic Sword made from the tailbone of a Demon Dragon that made a volcano its stronghold, its name is 『Voltaire』!」

What she handed over next was a single bladed sword made from the bones of a dragon.

Bone weapons should not be made light of. Sword blades produced by sharpening a bone could easily cut the skin just by lightly tracing the finger down it and make blood ooze out.

Since it was an established theory that dragons' bones were sturdy, this sword looked like it would be fine even if I handled it somewhat roughly.

.....That's what I thought but,

「Whoa!? F, flames?」

Boh! Swinging it only a little, flames that looked like it could engulf a whole person flared up from the Magic Sword.

「Ahaha.....J, just by lightly swinging it, flames came out.」

Isn't this is just a failed creation!? If I were to wield something like this, I'd be the one burned from using it!

「If, if at all possible, I'd like to request a sword that has little to no special abilities.....」

It's not like I'm seeking a Magic Sword after all. If it has high durability and is easy to handle, then that's fine.

「In that case, it's not something that I've forged but.....」

From the bundle of swords that she carried, she handed over a sword sheathed in a dirty, worn out-looking scabbard.

「Nn? This scabbard, is it made to open up?」

「It's made so that when you put it on your waist, by undoing the latch,

the sword will “fall out”.」

There was a simple latch attached to the scabbard she handed over, and when I unfastened that, the scabbard opened up like an attache case would and the sword was displayed.

The sword's width was somewhat short but it had thickness to it, and when I tried holding it with both hands, it fit really well with my hands.

「This is.....a good sword.」

The well-polished sword blade reflected my face, and slowly shined. It was a bit plainly ornamented, but how it was made to exclude the useless things made it have a favorable impression.

.....Yup. This is the one. I'll take this one.

Deciding that, I was about to put it back into the scabbard while thinking about how much the price would be for this sword but,

「.....Just when I thought I'd come back out to this corrupt world after a long time, I didn't think that I'd be held by a youngster like this one. Oi, shitty brat, I'm not a sword that should be held in the hands of someone like you! Put up with some other sword!」

from the held out sword, a voice that was insulting me resounded.

「A, a sword endowed with intelligence, an Intelligence Sword!?!」

That's right, this sword was different even among Magic Swords. It was a talking sword that possessed intelligence comparable to the average person.

Chapter 104 - The Preceding Hero and His Disciple Kuon

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「Zeraaahh!!」

Gou! (Boom!)

Together with a loud yell, the released sword attack bisected a hard-shell covered Rock Scorpion as if it were tofu, and several other monsters were literally blown away by the shockwave.

「Hmph! With that, I've finally disposed of them all.」

When he finished making a clean sweep of the group of monsters, the young man thrust the long sword that was about his own height into the ground and let out a sigh.

「Ou, ou, shitty brat! Yer skill with a sword gets a passin' mark, but yer treatment of me ain't any good! It's gotta be more, like I'm a treasure.」

「Shut up. Hey, hey, Fiona. Can't you cast Silent Magic only on the sword?」

「That's impossible.」

「That's what I thought~」

The black haired boy made a deep sigh and sheathed the sword bestowed with intelligence into its scabbard.



Having received the Intelligence Sword from Ahato, we decided to dive into the labyrinth that same day.

According to Fiona, thanks to that loli Vampire called Paimon or whatever, the Transfer Magic Formation became unusable and we now had to go down each and every floor.

「Haa.....We aren't advancing very far. We're still around the sixth floor, weren't we?」

「Correct. With just a bit more, we'll be at the staircase to the seventh floor.」

While looking at the map that was written in the book, Fiona replied with a cold answer.

The current situation is that it's already been half a day since we dove into the labyrinth, and although we've continued on with a forced march, each and every floor of the labyrinth was vast. Even though we continued on through the shortest paths, we still were continuing through the shallower floors.

Even with an understanding of the geography and it being floors where the monsters are weak, it was like this.

If we're talking about getting to around floor 30, it would probably take even more time.

「Man~, we have quite a lot of raw monster materials. With this, by the time we get to the lowest floor, it feels like we'll be able to make a fortune.」

「Anego, what should we do with the Magic Stones with low purity?」

「You nitwit! Whenever you call out to me, call me using Captain! Gather anything that can be changed into money, no matter how small the profit will be!」

In the middle of when I was thinking about what would happen from here on out, the Three Stooges were devoted to collecting the raw materials of the monsters that we defeated.

No, well, it's not like we're going to use the raw materials but, going by their joyful appearances as they gathered those materials, they seemed more like hard working volunteers picking up trash after a summer festival rather than pirates.

Our spirits would go up for anything other than that.

「Oi, shitty brat! Just how long are ya goin' ta be holdin' on to me! Either sheathe me into the scabbard or, ...Nufufu, let me have a talk with Bernadette-chan!」

「This damned perverted sword.....」

This was an Intelligence Sword that we borrowed from Ahato, but despite it being a sword, it had a broken condition of being lustful for women, and for a while now, it's been really annoying, telling me to let Bernadette hold it, or to let Bernadette use it.

「Who're you callin' a perverted sword! I told ya that my name is『Ravenbrand』!」

「Shut up! It's enough to just call you a perverted sword! More like, it's too cool for you to have a name despite not having any considerable ability!」

「What was that!? Bluntly goin' on about things that a person is bothered about!」

「You're not a person, you're a sword!」

With this kind of tone, our quarrelling hasn't stopped for a while.

If it was going to be like this, I should have gone with the Ice Sword.

「Aniki, there are monsters again. Coming from right in front..... Number of them is, seven.」

Kuon, who was walking at the head of the party, pulled out a kunai from who knows where, stuck her finger in the ring at the end of the handle and started spinning it around.

「Alright, perverted sword, it's time for work.」

「Hmph. Workin' me hard over some small fry.」

「It's because the feeling I get when using you isn't bad. Though I do need earplugs.」

Lowering my waist, I took a stance where the perverted sword I was holding with both hands was horizontal to the ground.

「Now then....., I'll take the two on the left. Kuon, you take the five on the right.」

「Eh, wait, Yashiro-aniki, haven't you been taking it easy for a while now!?!」

As I was about to run off after seeing the group of monsters that appeared from the darkness, Kuon shouted out seeming confused.

「Ah? What? Even if it's for an instant, are you talking back to me, your teacher? I won't care anymore if you say stuff like that, you know?」

「Don't threaten me using our teacher-student relationship! Jeez, Aniki, why do you tend to find things like this bothersome!」

As if matching Kuon who started running while complaining, I started running to the two monsters.

The monsters were a Rock Scorpion and a Puchi Salamander. Both of them were monsters whose over-all length were more than that of a human, the Rock Scorpion was an insect that had its whole body covered in a rock shell, and the Puchi Salamander was a small sized variety of dragon covered in red scales.

Both of them were very firm but since they didn't possess a means for magic-like defense, they were monsters where it was possible for me to push my way through them with my body that transcended that of an ordinary person's.

When I peeked over at Kuon's direction, it was a moment where she had just bisected a fire sub-spirit called a Will-o-wisp.



My body is light.

It hasn't even been a week since I took the training meant to make me have perfect control over my own body from Yashiro-aniki. Despite that, my body has become able to move several times faster when compared to before.

Without using any useless muscles, without using any useless movements, I have become able to perform the fastest body handling possible.

If it were now, I feel like I would be able to win against even that magician called Zephyr.

「Dash!」

Although the current floor is relatively vast, this place is a labyrinth. The walls and ceiling that occupied every direction became footholds for me.

I kicked off the wall and clung to the ceiling, then dropped down to the back of my prey and simultaneously thrust my kunai.

This is the second one.

The reason why I didn't use the short sword that was my original weapon was because the monsters of this labyrinth were nothing but guys that were altogether solid.

I threw a talisman that I pulled out from my pocket and stuck it on to the monster that came at me faster than I could pull out the kunai I had thrust into the monster before.

「Homura」

When I erected my index and middle fingers and chanted as if I were breathing out, a blue fire flooded out from the talisman and wrapped up the monster in an instant.

That's three. Two more left.

I threw my extracted kunai at the monster that looked like a wolf, and at the same time, I poured Maryoku into my legs and passed the kunai using 『Shukuchi』.

I kicked up the monster that saw the thrown kunai and tried to evade it, and then the kunai pierced its neck.

And this is the fourth! At this pace, won't I be able to defeat them faster than Aniki?

At the moment I was about to turn towards the remaining one, I peeked over and looked at Aniki.

Damn it, he's already finished!

Together with a tongue click, I thrust my kunai into the last monster.



「Man~, you really are easy to use. You don't show any signs of breaking.」

When I sheathed the perverted sword, aka Ravenbrand, into its scabbard, Kuon seemed to have finished defeating the last monster, and she now approached my direction making stomping sounds.

「Aniki, that's not fair! As expected, there's no way I can win if it's two versus five!」

Kuon stood on her knees in front of me and blamed me. Just what are you compete with me in? Is it that? The speed that we defeat the monsters? Give me a break. I'm altogether bad with time attack stuff.

「Actually, I'd would rather leave all of the monsters to you though.」

「No~ way! I want to fight together with you, Aniki!」

What kind of selfishness is that.

「.....Kuon, that's what you're called, right?」

As I was shrinking back from Kuon, Fiona forced herself between us.

「Nn? That's right.....」

「Your battle style is about slashing attacks and sorcery, right? You're probably using that weapon because of the solid opponents, but with a fighting style that you're not familiar with, you won't win against Yuu's speed you know? After all, he has a screwed up body that can use 『Shukuchi』 with only his physical abilities. If you want to win against him, if you don't think about your own advantage, your fighting style, through, you won't win.」

.....This sure is rare for Fiona. To think that she would give advice to another person, moreover a person that she had a short association with. It was after several months that she treated me like a pervert. No, I guess even after that, she normally treated me like a pervert.

「But, with that hardness, it'll be easier for my blade to break.....」

「I'm amazed. Yuu, you haven't taught your own techniques to your own disciple?」

「Wh, what. I did teach them, technically.」

Like the sword drawing technique, Zetsuei (Severing Shadow)

「Seeing as it's you, you probably didn't teach her any decent techniques. The only techniques that you have that would be a big plus are pretty much just 『Magic Clad Sword』 and 『Zantetsu』. Teach her properly.」

「Th, that's mean! Even though there are a lot of other ones like Hien (Swallow in Flight) and Sakurazanka (Falling as Cherry Blossoms Do)!」

「Those are all attacks that rely on physical ability. I won't acknowledge those things as techniques.」

「Damn it, you jerk that doesn't understand the romance of them. That's why your chest doesn't get bi—」

「The next time you talk about chests, I'll kill you.」

「I, I'm sorry.」

I became frightened from receiving the kind of bloodlust that wouldn't be turned towards an ally.

「Still, Zantetsu, huh.....I feel like it's still too early. Kuon's body still isn't ready yet after all.....Wait, it would do her good to have a lot of options.....Alright. Be happy Kuon. I'll teach you a technique.」

「Eh? Is, is that alright, Aniki!」

Hearing that I would teach her a move, delight could be seen in Kuon's eyes.

I nodded and beckoned Kuon over.

「What I'm going to teach you now isn't a technique that I thought out. It's a so-called collaboration that a certain man and I worked out and..... Well, whatever. Try having a taste of it by receiving it with your body.」

I swung my sword down in a vertical line at Kuon, who had come closer without taking any sort of stance, with enough force to split that body of

hers in half.

「.....Heh?」

That blade that shone with a momentary flash tore up Kuon's body.

Chapter 105 - Zantetsu

*

『Zantetsu』

A supreme sword technique that I had once worked out together with a certain man at the end of a struggle to the death.

An ultimate sword technique that could even bisect a Mazoku that possessed a body that was harder than rock, iron, or steel.



My swung down sword cut the wind. The sword that split Kuon's body, without getting any blood stuck on its blade, stopped below Kuon's thighs, whose eyes were opened in surprise.

「Eh.....Ah, just now, I.....」

Kuon leaked out a voice as she was standing still, and along with that, *pachin*, the sound of the scabbard's clasp being fastened resounded. I had sheathed the sword into the scabbard.

「That just now was 『Zantetsu』. How was it? Does it hurt anywhere?」

「.....No, it doesn't hurt anywhere. But Aniki, just now, I was definitely.....cut down, right?」

There was a feeling of being cut down. However, the sensation of being cut down and pain, Kuon didn't feel either of them.

「No, I didn't cut you down, you know? To begin with, I don't ever want to cut a girl down. What I cut was.....Uhehe.」

「Eh.....Hea!?!」

Fu (Flutter) Kuon felt the sensation of something falling from her body.

And then, when she looked down at her feet, she realized the identity of that out of place feeling, and made her face turn red.

「『Zantetsu』 isn't a technique meant to cut down only things that are hard like iron. It will cut down only the target to be cut with full

certainty. It's that kind of technique. And then, if you use this, just like this, cutting only your "underwear" was po—」

「U, uwaaaaah!!」

「Buberah!?!」

I was struck in the face by her fist, rolled two or three times on the ground, and crashed into the wall.

.....Dammit, that attack just now, it was my blunder but I didn't see it! Granted I was in the middle of the technique's explanation, but to think that up until that moment that Kuon's fist made direct contact, I wasn't able to notice Kuon's attack.....Fufu, you sure have grown, Kuon!

「A, Aniki, you jerk! H, h-how could you do such a thing!」

Kuon, who wore clothes whose hems were short like a mini-skirt, had her face turn red, and she desperately pulled the hems of her clothes down and tried to hid from my field of vision.

.....Mufufu, a bashful girl is great no matter how many times I see it.

「Hyahya, you've got awfully good tastes, don't cha, brat! Ta think I'd cut the underwear of a girl this adorable.....This is more blessing than a Magic Sword deserves!」

The sheathed Ravenbrand laughed at Kuon's appearance as she picked up her fundoshi that was at her feet while pushing down the hems of her clothes.

If it had the shape of a person, it probably would have been making a dirty face.

「He, hehe.....So you've finally acknowledged me, have you, Magic Sword.」

「Ya damned fool, only for a bit, boy. A bit.」

If Ravenbrand had the appearance of a person, this guy and I probably would have gripped each other's hand and would have been able to walk together as comrades possessing the same will.

Is what I was thinking when a sudden gripping pain ran through my

head.

「Ugh, oh, ohh, oohh.」

「Yuu.....Why are you naturally doing such perverted acts?」

The cause of what was making my head creak was Fiona's iron claw. Her white slender fingers dug into my head, and lifted up my body that had become childish.

Uooooohh, thanks to this, Elf's habit, she used this fiendish technique, oooooh!!

It, it's gonna break! Just like a tomato!

「N, no, you see, her personally experiencing it herself is-is-is!」

「You know, it's not that I'm angry that you made her personally experience it. I'm asking why you cut her underwear, got that? You got the point in question wrong.」

Gogogogogogo Fiona was letting out a terrifyingly intimidating air. That's right! These kinds of jokes don't get through to Fiona at all! I only remember that just now.

「Yashiro-san! There is a proper way of teaching these kinds of things! Kuon-chan is a girl too, you know?」

Bernadette scolded me, who was gripped and suspended in the air by Fiona, with a 「Bad boy!」 as if she were scolding a child.

「Well, ...I'm sorry.」

「I'm not the person you should be apologizing to, you know?」

「Ah~, well, ...Sorry, Kuon. I got too carried away.」

Urged on by Bernadette, I apologized to Kuon while still being gripped. Though, since I couldn't move my head, I wasn't faced towards her.

「.....If, if you're going to do something like this next time, please tell me ahead of time, Aniki. Having my fundoshi cut when I thought that I was cut was too big of a surprise.」

Kuon said that while her cheeks were dyed red and was bashfully

wriggling her body.

.....I do think that it was wrong of me to do that, but bashful girls really are arousing!

「Jeez. Yashiro-san, you really are lewd..... Fiona-san? You can put Yashiro-san down now, you know?」

Mumumu.....It kind of feels like Bernadette became the Onee-san. Even though we're the same age.

Well, it's fine since I benefit from it.

「.....You were called Bernadette, right? You, what are you to Yuu?」

.....Mu? The power that Fiona used to grip my head weakened, but I feel some kind of bloodlust coming from her.

Huh? Did I say something I shouldn't have? As you'd expect, I didn't intend to do anything that would make her truly angry with me.

「.....I am Yashiro-san's ally. Is there, something wrong with that?」

「.....You're, Yuu's, huh.」

Fiona looked at Bernadette with eyes that looked like she was making sure of something.

? Erm.....What's going on here? What kind of situation is this?

As I was confused by the current situation, Fiona's hand separated from my head.

「Whoa. Fiona?」

The moment her hand separated from me, Fiona started walking further into the labyrinth.

Feeling that that atmosphere of hers was strange, I reflexively called out to her.

「.....It's, nothing. Let's hurry up.」

Fiona continued on without taking glance back.
.....Just what in the world happened? It's not like it was a bad premonition or anything, but I felt uneasy.



A few hours after Fiona became a person of few words, we finally arrived before the door heading to the tenth floor.

「There's a so-called Boss monster on the tenth floor, right, Fiona?」

「.....Yes, that's right.」

She's been like this for a while now.

U~mu. For some reason, Fiona's mood isn't getting better.

Come to think of it, there was a time where a situation like this happened before, wasn't there.

When was that again.....

「Oi, youngster.」

「Mu. What's up, Rave. I'm kind of in the middle of some deep thinking right now.」

When I was about to remember, the sheathed Ravenbrand, Rave for short, called out to me while waving about and making a clatter.

「Put the deep thinkin' aside. It looks like the guy past here ain't an opponent you can go up against with ordinary means.」

「Can't go up against with ordinary means.....It's still the tenth floor, right? The current me might be weakened, but it's not going to be an opponent that would give me a hard time.」

I lightly answered to Rave who had an awfully serious tone, but since it seemed to have felt something, Rave kept silent.

Come to think of it, I understand that it's a sturdy and easy to wield sword, but what could this guy's own personal abilities be.

Rave is splendidly sharp as a sword, but I couldn't discover its ability as a Magic Sword no matter how much I wielded it.

If it were an ability that would increase its weight or impact given like Falhart Enhans' Magic Sword, it would be something I could discover by using it.

And yet, despite continuing to wield it until reaching the tenth floor, I didn't discover anything but the fact that it was a sword that my hands

had gotten used to.

「.....Well, I'll be sure to not be negligent.」

When we slowly opened the door and entered inside the room, it had become an excessively spacious room.

However,

「.....Is it, not here?」

There were several light sources inside the room that looked like torchlights, but the appearance of a monster that could be said to be the so-called Boss was nowhere to be found.

In labyrinths, monsters that were called Bosses would be generated. Even if that Boss were to be defeated, it would be regenerated after a fixed amount of time.

That reason wasn't definite, but the Boss would appear over and over again.

「Could this mean that.....it was defeated and we came before it was regenerated?」

Holding a Magic Gun in one hand at the ready, Bernadette muttered. I was of the same opinion, but then I recalled Rave's words from before.

「Kuon, can you feel some kind of presence?」

When I asked Kuon that since she excelled in regards to presences, she nodded with a difficult face.

「There's, something here. But I can't tell where it is. Its presence is strange. It seems to be small yet big.....」

Kuon's presence detection was excellent. If even that Kuon was unable to grasp its location, it probably meant that the current situation was strange.

「Nn? Hey, Black Hair. What is that?」

As we were being vigilant of our surroundings, Angelica, who was at the rear of the party, pointed into empty space.

When we looked to where she pointed to, in that place where there wasn't

anything just seconds ago, a mass that looked like a black swirl appeared.

「.....What, is that.....An eyeball?」

When I promptly drew my sword and prepared myself, a huge eyeball appeared from within the black swirl as if it were rising towards the surface.

That size, a size that surpassed even a lightweight truck, was gigantic to the point of being strange.

When the eyeball looked around at the vicinity, a huge mouth then suddenly appeared directly below the eyeball.

No, it didn't appear. It just simply opened its mouth.

「C, could that be.....!!」

That gigantic eyeball revealed countless smaller eyeballs from its head portion. Each and every one of them were attached to the ends of tentacles, and all of those countless eyeballs had perceived us.

Maybe because she knew about that bizarre, wicked, ugly figure, Bernadette raised a bitter shout.

I also wanted to shout out more than her, but I had become more paralyzed with fear instead of that.

If it were someone that knew of that guy's existence, if there were someone that knew of that guy's nonsensicalness here, each and every one of them would have probably shown a reaction like Bernadette and I did.

That showed how much that guy's existence was something that you should never meet.

「Be, Behol—」

「You're telling me it's Dogezaemon!?!」

「Eh?」



Author's Note:

Thank you for waiting. This is the latest chapter.

Finally, the joke that I've wanted to do has come.

By the way, the vectors of fear for Yuu and Bernadette are different.

Yuu→Copyright meaning

Ber→Monster meaning

Until next time. Look forward to it!

Chapter 106 - The Preceding Hero VS The Ancient Monster Beholder

*

Its name is 『Beholder』.

Nicknamed 『Dogezaemon』, 『The One That Gazes』, and 『God of Inescapable Perception』, it's a monster of ancient times said to have lived since the age of the gods.

In the battle between the gods and the monsters, it was a monster that killed the entire Ancient Dragon army that was led by Dragon King Vafumunt.

It was said that it was destroyed in the end by the Dragon King, so it wasn't a monster that should be in a place like this.

「Why is a monster like that here!」

Yuu felt every hair on his body stand on end.

It was a sharp shiver, as if a cold shining knife were tracing its way down his back.

Faster than he could think, Yuu thrust Rave into the ground, extended his hand into the air, and was about to call out his Sacred Sword, but he stopped himself.

(In a place like this.....I can't use the Sacred Sword!)

In this labyrinth that had walls in every direction, using the Sacred Sword would instead become his own shackles.

The Sacred Sword contained enough power within it to scatter a destructive shockwave to the surroundings just from swinging it.

If he were to use something like that, the labyrinth would collapse and probably bury them all alive.

Making his extended hand into a clenched fist, Yuu clicked his tongue once, pulled Rave out, and started running.

(I can't exactly compete with it but.....It's not like it's stronger than

Vafumunt, right? In that case, there's a chance of winning!)

Covering a distance of 20m in one breath, he raised his sword overhead at the floating Beholder.

Having broken out into a run due to the idea of victory going to the one who makes the first move, Yuu's speed, maybe due to his childish figure, was far slower when compared to his usual speed, making his 『Shukuchi』 fall short.

However, even with that, that body that had long surpassed that of an ordinary person's body had exceeded the Beholder's reaction speed, and the raised overhead sword placed a large injury on the Beholder's spherical body.

But,

「Wha.....Gofuh!?!」

A hole the size of a tennis ball opened wide.

From that hole, a large amount of fresh blood spouted out.

「Yashiro-san!?!」

While listening to Bernadette's bitter shout, Yuu noticed the opened hole in his own chest.

「Rrahh!!」

With a roll, Yuu extending one hand and did a forward somersault from his slanted posture, jumped up from directly below the Beholder, and fired off a decapitating slash just like that.

However, the raised overhead sword went *Whoosh*, leaving behind the sound of cutting wind and only cut the air.

「Was that, Warp!?!」

Noticing the Beholder with its eye closed appear as if it were crawling out of empty space at the edge of his vision, Yuu kicked his leg up, changed his posture in mid-air, and became upside down.

「TSK! What the hell is up with this thing!!」

The moment he was about to try and change his posture, Yuu saw a

portion of his own forelocks suddenly get blown off as if it were trash, got down with one hand, did two or three backflips, and took some distance from the Beholder.

The eyeball tentacles that grew out from places on the Beholder's head had caught sight of Yuu even while they were wriggling about. As Yuu and the Beholder glared at each other, being cautious of the other's moves, Dosu, there was a thick sound and an arrow had pierced through one of the tentacles.

「! So it was you, Fiona!」
「Isn't that, obvious?」

In the middle of the Beholder's shout resounding through the labyrinth, Yuu saw an archer that had taken a stance with a wooden bow and was broadly grinning. The one that had smashed their stalemate was the Elf with mean looking eyes, Fiona.

With a Gyorori, the large eyeball and all of its eyeball tentacles turned towards Fiona. Next, the Beholder closed its large eyeball, and then, as if it were hiding into empty space, Zuzuzu, it warped.

「Fiona! Behind you!!」
「I know!」

Taking an arrow out from a tube and the bowstring to its limit, Fiona jumped out of the way. When she did, a dull beam of light that was fired from a tentacle eyeball pierced through the place that Fiona was just standing at. In an instant, the floor exploded, and a flash enveloped the vicinity.

「Now it has a destructive beam!? What the hell is up with this guy!」

While Fiona was rapidly firing arrows, Yuu was on the lookout for the “something” that went through his chest in an instant. While running in a zigzag, he got closer to the Beholder.

「Yuu! It's most likely the tentacles!」
「I bet it is!」

Just like the beam that was fired from the eyeball that was attached to the tip of the tentacle, that un-seeable something must have been fired off from the tentacle.

Changing his target from the Beholder itself to the tentacles overhead, Yuu rode fast.

When he advanced a distance of dozens of meters with a few steps, several of the tentacles with eyeballs attached to the tips caught sight of Yuu.

When he leapt to the right as if he were repelled the moment their gazes intersected, the ground of the place that he was just at a moment before, without exploding or anything, simply scattered away.

Yuu didn't overlook the tentacles that moved at that time.

「.....I see, now I've seen through it!」

The destructive beam and the something that extinguished the floor just now were performed by different tentacles.

And then, those tentacles didn't show any actions other than those.

The beam firing tentacle would only fire beams, and the tentacle that performed a vanishing phenomenon would only perform the vanishing phenomenon.

The tentacle that was in his eyes at the time his chest was pierced through was exactly the tentacle that extinguished the floor trying to kill Yuu just now.

「If I'm not mistaken, then this is.....!!」

First, he would cut down the tentacle that was the most dangerous, the tentacle that caused the vanishing phenomenon!

「U, oohhhhh!!」

It pierced through his right shoulder, but without minding it, Yuu made a battle cry. While his legs and his cheeks were scraped and blood splashes were made, Yuu sprang upon the Beholder.

His short physique jumped up, and the moment he tried to swing down the Magic Sword, Yuu noticed an uncomfortable feeling in the right half of his own body.

「It has petrification.....!」

The arm that he had raised overhead had literally become rock and couldn't move. Judging that his own right arm had become useless, Yuu smashed his right arm, gripped the Magic Sword, and threw it like a boomerang.

Moving forward while cutting the wind, the Magic Sword sliced off the aimed at tentacle and some other tentacles all together, then kept going and pierced into the ceiling.

「Yuu.....!!」

Fiona fired off pursuit magic at the Beholder that raised a scream, maybe due to the pain. The arrow of invisible gale that was fired off without an aria was fired at the Beholder while scattering wind into the surroundings, and just before it was about to hit, 「Pakin」, it disappeared together with sound like that of something being broken off.

「A sensation similar to when the Transfer Formation was erased..... There's no mistaking it, it has made magic powerless.....」

Although she was disturbed by how magic was made powerless, deciding that she should use her bow and arrow if magic wouldn't work, Fiona didn't stop her attacking hands.

Making Dosu dosu sounds, her arrows pierced into the Beholder, but since they weren't doing any significant damage, they were inadequate to stop the Beholder that rushed an attack on Yuu as if it were in a fit of rage.

But,

「To think that you'd be the one to come out.....ooRAAH!!」

Yuu struck a fist into the part that would be the Beholder's chin with his right arm that should have been smashed, then he rotated his body and kicked the Beholder away with a spinning kick.

Chapter 107 - The Preceding Hero, Advances to the Volcano Cave!

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As the kicked away Beholder collided into the wall, Yuu extended a hand towards Kuon.

「Kuon! Lend me a kunai!!」

Kuon replied as if she had snapped back to reality to those shouted words that hurried her.

「Ah, Aniki!」

Kuon had spaced out from the consecutive shocks that her thoughts couldn't keep up with.

While feeling ashamed of her inexperience, she threw a kunai towards Yuu's hand.

「Thank you. Here I go!」

Putting his index finger through the ring attached to the end of the handle of the kunai, Yuu spun the kunai around, and when he held it with a reverse grip, he kicked the ground and closed in on the Beholder.

When he got to a distance where he would be able to cut it with only a few more steps, Yuu suddenly stopped his feet.

「.....I did think that it might be possible.」

Facing the being that he had confronted as if it had become a wall, Yuu undid his stance.

「Kikiki.....As expected of one of the miko lineage. To think that you would be able to fight this far against the Beholder that hath lived since the time of the age of the gods.」

The little Vampire girl, Paimon had appeared as if to interrupt the Beholder and Yuu.

「.....That way of speaking, and the timing that you appeared with.

Even the Beholder that has existed since the age of the gods, is you're subordinate.....Is that what this means?」

While spinning the kunai with his finger, Yuu asked that without removing his gaze from Paimon for even a second.

In response to that, Paimon only laughed with a 「Kiki」.

However, the raised up corners of her mouth, her laughing eyes, even without her opening her mouth, she eloquently told him.

That, that was correct.

「.....So? Is it alright to fight with you next?」

Chaki.

Gripping the kunai that was spinning, he pointed the tip of it at Paimon.

However, although he said that, Yuu instinctively thought that he probably wouldn't fight with Paimon here and now and felt that this was similar to something else.

(In line with Aquadine and Umbra, she's the type that I hate the most.)

This opponent wasn't the kind that would try to crush their enemies with no questions asked.

She was probably the type that would prepare a stage and would worry about the production meant for the fight.

「Kikiki. I am one that was sealed within this land for many months and years, bore a grudge and hatred for it, and memorized a countless number of curses. However, at this time, my objective is not to murder you all.」

Erecting her index finger, Paimon made a broad grin.

「Tis only to have a struggle to the death with a rival lineage. Ki, kiki! Kikiki!!」



The moment she declared that, Paimon warped together with the Beholder and vanished.

Seeming like they had really vanished, traces of a warp couldn't be seen in the surroundings.

「Kuon. Is there any sign of the Beholder?」

When I asked that while walking towards Kuon to try and hand back the kunai, Kuon immediately turned her attention to the surroundings.

「.....No, it looks like it's gone. The strange feeling from before is gone too.」

Having made her ears stand up and searched for any surrounding signs, Kuon shook her head.

It looks like they really did leave. When I reflexively let out a sigh of relief, the Three Stooges rushed over making flapping sounds.

「Black Hair! I had thought that you were a man that could get things done, but to think that you'd be able to take out a monster like that! As expected of the vice-captain of the 『Black Rose Sky Pirates』!」

「Since when was I ever the vice-captain, you little punk.」

Pushing away Angelica's hand that was patting my head, I jumped up to Ravenbrand that was still stuck to the ceiling, grabbed it, and pulled it out.

「Phew—, it feels like my feet're finally planted on the ground.」

When I pulled out the Magic Sword and landed, Raven said that with a sigh mixed in.

「You were awfully quiet. Did something happen?」

The foundation of the Magic Sword that I held in my hand was its noisiness. However, during the fight with that Beholder, this Magic Sword didn't say even a single word.

「I'm a Magic Sword. Just like a gate that uses a magic mechanism, if magic can't be used, I become unable to talk.」

No, I didn't know that. I've only dabbled a bit in regards to magic after all. I've got nothing on the field of Magic Swords.

When I sheathed Raven into the scabbard, Fiona, who was holding the labyrinth walkthrough book in one hand, came near me.

「I'm relieved to see that you haven't become dull from the peace.」

「I've been quite encouraged by Baba-chan since I've come here after all. So, what do we do after this?」

When I asked that, Fiona opened the walkthrough book and showed it to me.

「I'll lay out a magic formation on the next floor. After that, we'll be advancing through the labyrinth again, but the environment will change from the next floor onwards.」

「The environment? Hey, hey, what is this stuff that looks like a puddle of red on top of this map?」

I pointed at something that existed in the place that the map drawn in the walkthrough book led to.

.....That's right, it was something like a Damage Map that you often see in games.

Like the stuff that acts as a barrier in volcano stages—

「It's magma.」



When we came out of the labyrinth, the place we came out to was a volcano cave—the scenery had made a complete change to the point of making me want to say that.

After we had defeated the Beholder, when we went through the room that could be called the connection between the tenth floor to the eleventh floor, a heat that felt like it would singe our skin assailed us.

Up until the tenth floor, it was a labyrinth whose manmade structures that looked like historic ruins made it stand out, but this floor was the opposite and seemed like something natural that the hands of man couldn't reach.

「This.....looks like it'll be extremely intense.」

The floors up until the tenth floor had, putting it bluntly, a degree of difficulty where you could say that it would be easy if an adventurer with a certain amount of experience had done it, but was it my misunderstanding in feeling that the degree of difficulty jumped up after entering the eleventh floor?

「The floors from this eleventh floor are called『First Sight Killers』. Although there aren't any kinds of traps, the height of the magma changes like the rise and fall of tides, and you can't get away by the time you notice it.....Things like this often happen.」

There was a necklace that made use of a gem that looked like a sapphire on Fiona's neck, who explained that without shedding a bit of sweat.

Ah, this girl is using an anti-heat magic tool, isn't she!?

Just when I was feeling anger towards Fiona who was shrewd enough to only prepare an anti-heat magic tool for herself, Bernadette, who had been awfully quiet, stepped forward.

「O wind, envelop us and overcome the heat.....『Cool』! Phew, with this, it should become considerably more comfortable.」

At the same time she stepped forward, Bernadette used magic. When she did, a cold wind blew, and wrapped us up.

「Ohh! Is this magic?」

「Yes. Even without a staff, I am able to use magic of this level.」

「Kuu—! Thanks, Sister-nee-chan. I was about to die from it being so hot.」

Angelica and Kuon raise cheers to Bernadette's Cooling Magic. When I was about to say my thanks to Bernadette as well, Bernadette approached me.

「Since I wasn't able to do anything a while ago, I need to at least do this much.」

「It's nothing that you should worry about. It was just a matter of the

right person in the right place you know, the right person in the right place.」

When I smiled and replied to Bernadette who looked like she was experiencing feelings of guilt, Bernadette showed an even sadder looking face.

「.....Yashiro-san, is dying, a matter of the right person in the right place?」

I reflexively shut my mouth from Bernadette's words that she said in a small enough voice that only I could hear.

「Yashiro-san, I understand that you can't die.....and that you fight with that as a weapon. But, using it as if to say that it's only natural that it happens.....Seeing that, it makes my chest hurt.」

Chapter 108 - Flow

*

「Kuon-san! Please don't get too close!」

「I'm telling you, I know! Zetsu, ei!!」

While firing a Magic Bullet at an approaching monster and taking it down in one hit, Bernadette shouted at Kuon who was moving fast.

While replying to her, Kuon fired off a 『Zetsuei』.

The secret technique that puts amassed Maryoku to use for a Magic Clad Sword at the same time the short sword is drawn and slices up the enemy in a single stroke, 『Zetsuei (Severing Shadow)』.

Using this move that I taught her on the battlefield (or that I forced on to her, according to Fiona), Kuon bisected the lava covered scorpion.

Advancing through the volcano cave that appeared since the eleventh floor, although we more or less had a hard time with the changing terrain and the pyro enemies, we pleasantly advanced on through.

「Whoa there, so it's starting to rise up.」

Whenever we got close to magma that was slowly but steadily getting higher, we would climb up onto a nearby large rock and wait for the magma to recede.

「What I hate, is how we become unable to advance.」

「Yeah, for me, in regards to the monsters, it's only to the point of being a bit hard to handle, but this is something that I can't do absolutely anything about.」

Kuon nodded to the words that Angelica mixed in with a sigh. That's right. Monsters were something that we could do something about, but becoming unable to advance through this scorching hell was something that they couldn't do anything about. And we're not going with the idea of me desperately running on top of the magma as a substitute for a ferry. Although I won't die, I'd go insane from the pain.

「Although I can defend against heat to a certain extent with Cooling, even I can't do anything about touching magma.」

Bernadette wryly smiled while casting Cooling Magic on us.

.....After that conversation with her, I somehow just couldn't have a conversation with Bernadette.

No, I knew the reason. Having an idea of where Bernadette's words came from, I simply kept silent on my own.

(Dying as only natural, huh.....Certainly, it was due to getting too used to dying.) Around the first time I came to this world, even though I knew that I was immortal, I didn't just jump into fatal situations. There was pain after all, and above all, at the moment of death, I feared the sensation of everything scattering away.

I wonder when it was, when “dying” started to enter my tactics.

As I was thinking about such things, a small vibration suddenly occurred on my ear.

『.....Just how long do you intend on worrying, Yuu.』

Fiona's voice came resounding from the Communication Stone on my ear.

『Fiona!? This, it's the thing that I received from Alicia, you know!?』

『As long as one has a Communication Stone, jacking in is easy. More importantly, just how long are you going to irresolutely worry, because it's rather annoying, you know?』

I reflexively made a wry smile at Fiona's sharp words.

『You're the same as usual, aren't you, Fiona. Though I would be happy if you could have said that a bit more kinder, you know?』

『You would just get spoiled if I were to treat you kindly. I don't want to.』

Getting bluntly told that, a wry smile came out. She was exactly right about that.

『.....So? Just how much did you inform that Sister?』

『Inform?』

『Since she's aware of your immortality, it would feel like you've talked to her about being the Hero, don't you think?』

『Ahh, so that's what you meant. Let's see.....I talked about speaking fondly of a loved one.』

『Ha?』

I was asked again by a kind of low voice. Since it's just plain scary, I really would like you to stop that.

『Ah-, I pretty much talked about the start and end of my romance with Olivia, and a light talk about being the Hero.』

『About, her Majesty?』

When I answered, Fiona asked again with a rare surprised look.

『What, is that really that surprising?』

『.....Not really.』

Seeming somehow sulky, Fiona cut off the Communication Stone's Maryoku.

Although I wanted to question her, since I don't have any Maryoku and was unable to activate the Communication Stone, I turned only my eyes towards her. And when I did, Fiona had descended from the rock.

「Hey, what're you—」

「Yashiro-san? Is something the matter?」

「Eh.....Ah~, sorry. I was spacing out a bit.」

Looking closely, at some point, the magma had receded and everyone but me had descended from the rock.



About several hours after that, when we continued to advance then avoid the magma then advance then avoid the magma, we arrived at an

awfully spacious floor.

This one floor had its surface covered with magma, and a hole that looked like it continued on to the next floor could be seen in the distance.

If we were to go directly there, it looked like we could get out of this floor immediately.

「Floor 19.....It's a Salamander nest.」

All present stopped moving as if we had been frozen by the words Fiona fired off.

「Did you say Salamander!? You.....Why didn't you say that earlier!？」

「I handed you the book, didn't I. It was written in there.」

「Guh.....Still, Salamanders, huh.....」

Salamander. The monster that comes up first that has fire as its symbol is probably the Salamander.

Inhabiting volcanoes, and being monsters that make magma their bed, they are a low rank Dragon species.

It's not like there is a large number of them, but they are able to perfectly assimilate with magma, and the Flame Breath that they breathe from their mouth possesses enough heat to melt a steel forged shield in an instant.

And then, above all, what makes Salamanders such formidable opponents is, 「!? Aniki! We're surrounded!!」

in that outstandingly ferocious nature that they have.

That nature of absolutely expelling enemies that trespass into their own territory is something that they have in common with the dragons told of in legends.

If there was only one thing that was different between them, it would be that they fought in a group of dozens of them.

A number of Salamanders that easily surpassed ten crawled out and appeared from the magma.

「Yashiro-san, please leave this place to me.」

As I had placed the Magic Sword that was sheathed in its scabbard into my hand, Bernadette stopped me.

「Bernadette?」

「I don't recommend engaging Salamanders in close combat. Besides..... If we're talking about a distance that you have to maintain, then that's my distance!」

Saying that, Bernadette drew her Magic Guns from her slit. In an instant, a Salamander that tried to breathe out flames was hit with a Maryoku bullet faster than it could make a sound.

「Recently, I haven't been able to participate actively much after all!」

「Participate actively, wait, oi.....」

Was I the only one that held anxiety for Bernadette who was high with tension?

In a place away from that anxiety of mine, Bernadette made clicking footsteps and advanced forward.

「Now, now, please watch. With that shot just now, I saw a chance of winning.」

Facing the muzzles of her pair of guns up and down, and showing a stance of a cross, Bernadette smiled.

Chapter 109 - A Glimpse of Her True Ability

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「In, incredible.....」

What I reflexively leaked out was a voice of admiration. I was surprised by Bernadette's fighting figure that looked like she was dancing.

Bernadette had jumped up, and landed right in the center of the group of Salamanders.

Bernadette had personally gotten herself surrounded by the Salamanders whose size was about that of a large breed of dog, but in the next instant, the heads of two of the Salamanders were blown off. Shooting their head and ending their lives, she kicked up the collapsed Salamanders and made them shields against the flames that were released from the left and right.

The moment that the Salamanders that she made into shields fell to the ground, she turned both her arms to the left and right, and shot down two more Salamanders with Maryoku bullets.

Gou!! (Roaring sound!!)

Flames assailed Bernadette. But, Bernadette had lowered her posture and avoided it, and as she evaded, she shot down the Salamander that released those flames.

「.....Phew!」

Getting a shot in to a Salamander that showed its fangs and tried to eat her, she evaded with a twirl as if she were dancing an attack of a Salamander that raised its arm overhead and tried to tear her to pieces with its sharp claws and then shot it in the head and brought it down. A total of seven Salamanders turned into corpses in an instant.

After that, it was completely one-sided. While spreading out both arms

and turning her body, she pulled the triggers and made a clean sweep of the remaining Salamanders.

Bernadette, who had finished shooting her guns, didn't have a single breath out of order.

「Phew.....With this, it's done.」

Putting her Magic Guns inside of her slit, Bernadette turned her head and looked at us.

「Kuon-sa~n! Are there any more~?」

「.....As far as I can tell, there aren't any.」

Ah~, ...After seeing Bernadette's true ability, Kuon was smiling, looking extremely happy.

Come to think of it, at the time Bernadette and Kuon fought, neither of them were using the weapons that they originally specialized in.

「Hey, hey, Sister-onee-chan. Could you have a quick rematch with me?」

Wanting her to pardon us from that as you'd expect, when I was about to stop Kuon by saying "Right here!?", Bernadette made a giggling voice.

「If it's after we conquer this dungeon, we can have as many as you like.」

In my negligence, I felt my heart skip a beat from seeing Bernadette who had winked an eye and smiled.



Having broken through the 19th floor, the nest of Salamanders, in front of us, something identical to the large door we saw on the tenth floor appeared.

For the time being, I guess we can call it the door to the boss room.

「Oi, Fiona, what's the boss this time?」

When I asked that question to the Fiona that kept silent about the Salamanders, she breathed a sigh and opened up the book.

「It should be a Golem.」

「Should?」

「The gatekeepers that appear every ten floors were all Golems of each attribute.....However, now that that monstrosity had appeared, I cannot deny the possibility that another monstrosity will come out on this floor as well.」

True, there is the possibility that a monster of the Beholder class might appear again.

Rather, if it's that vampire that loves to see our reactions to the things that she does, it's guaranteed that she'll do it.

「I would really like for it to be a Golem.」

Angelica said that while opening up the top of her breast and lifting up the collar with her hand. Fumu, so her bra is black.

「A Golem is also formidable enemy among formidable enemies, isn't it?」

Certainly, in terms of the level of dangerousness, a Golem would be lower, but seeing as how we are the ones that are going to fight it, it shouldn't really matter to Angelica's group.

「A Golem's core is a Magic Stone. The idea is that the stronger the Golem, the higher the purity of the Magic Stone we obtain is.」

「Now I get it.....The fact that this labyrinth is a Magic Stone mine might also be the reason why the bosses of this place are only Golems.」

While hoping that the boss is a Golem, I placed my hand on the door, and slowly push it.

The door made a Gogogogogo (heavy creaking) sound, and slowly began to open.

When it did, a heat that overcame the Cooling Magic had come flooding out from the gap of the door.

「つ....., Fiona.」

「Yes, yes.『cool』」

Feeling that it would be no good with only Bernadette's Cooling Magic, when I look over to Fiona, Fiona breathed a sigh and invoked some magic.

With the synergism of Bernadette and Fiona's Cooling Magic, the heat was completely obstructed.

「Yotto.....Uwah, it sure is amazing.」

What we saw after opening the door was magma spouting up, and a high stone ceiling.

Maybe because the magma held a much higher temperature than the other floors, this room was brighter than the outside.

「It's like the crater of a volcano.....」

I nodded at what Kuon had muttered quietly. There was a path, but there was no way of telling when the magma would overflow.

「Now then, what will happen next.....」[\[1\]](#)

As an environment to fight it, it was the worst. If a monster like the Beholder were to come out here, it would be devastating.

When we continued on while hoping that it was a Golem, Kuon stepped forward.

「Yashiro-aniki, be careful. It's already here.」

The center of the room was a spot that looked like a crater, but in the range that we could see, we didn't any signs of monsters.

「Its location?」

「Below.....No, at the bottom of the magma, I suppose.」

Learning from the vigilant Kuon whose fox ears stood up with a pin, I also gripped the handle of my Magic Sword and prepared myself so as to be ready to fight at any moment.

「Of the magma? Then that would mean, it looks like it isn't a Golem.」

Preparing her Magic Guns with a jyaki, Bernadette muttered.

A Crag Sentry Golem.

Having enough of a degree of familiarity that you could even say that it's already a standard in labyrinths, it's a monster that seldom appears in even low grade labyrinths.

Its weapon was its body itself. Its rock fist that was about the size of a single person was a threat just by swinging it down.

But for those Golems, their weakness was surprisingly flames, and high temperature flames at that.

No matter how hard and solid a body it possessed, in was rock in the end. In a temperature that surpassed a thousand degrees, its body would melt. (Although there was the rare Golem made of iron, its weakness was also flames.)

When thinking of that, what was inside of the magma wasn't a Golem, but an opponent that could even nullify the high temperatures of magma.....

Arriving to that conclusion should have only been natural. However,

「.....Even if the Golem is a Golem, it looks like we've drawn something outrageous. Really, each and every time, thanks to Yuu's bad luck.....」

While making the ground slightly shake with a Zuzun....., what appeared from inside the magma was a giant build that had a height of twenty meters.

Its body red hot from the magma's temperature, it was a colossal Golem.

Translator's Notes:

[1] This was originally a proverb that literally went “will an oni come out or will a snake come out”. Original: 鬼が出るか蛇が出るか

Chapter 110 - The Elven Scholar and the Colossal Golem

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「It, it's huge!!」

The advancing colossal Golem that made the ground shake with a thud with each and every step that it took, while scraping against the ceiling, stopped in front of the door that led to the next floor.

A single leg was plenty to make up for a gatekeeper, oi.

「A G, G-G-Golem!? Why is a Golem here!」

「『Obsidian Golem』.....It's a Golem whose entire body is made out of obsidian, and is a high class variety that rivals that of a 『Mythril Golem』. Among the subspecies of Golems, it's a rare variety that boasts a high heat-resistance property.....This is my first time seeing one as well.」

「Oi oi, are you serious.....」

Seeing as how its red hot body was slowly cooling down, this big framed Golem, the 『Obsidian Golem』 turned back to its original glossy black body.

Obsidian.....A variety of volcanic rock and a stone whose characteristics were that color and its glass quality. And if it were just normal items, those existed on Earth as well.

.....However, in this other world of Reynbrook, it didn't just end with being a glass quality volcanic rock.

Maybe because it carries Maryoku, it has a lot of strength, and despite it being glass quality, it's hard to break and it's even hard to put a scratch on it.

In comparison to Mythril, which is also called Magic Silver, it falls behind in rarity and properties, but because of its all-purpose nature and its ease of processing, it's a stone that is circulated with a high price.

「It, it's here it's here it's heerrreee!! With this guy, it's like we pulled out an outrageous jackpot!! Come on, come on, Black Hair, go get him!!

With a Golem that huge, those other Magic Stones don't even stack up to it! Even becoming a billionaire is a path that's right in front of our eyes!!」

Far from panicking in front of the absurdly humongous Golem, Angelica's eyes were shining, brimming with plans of selling the Magic Stone. Oi oi, that's a Magic Stone meant for the airship, isn't it?

「Still, it sure does look tough.....Fiona, can you defeat that thing?」
「Who do you think you're saying that to, Yuu. In the end, it's just a Golem that's only somewhat tough and huge, you know? It's easy.」

When she said that, Fiona raised the ring on the index finger of her left hand.

「So you're using a ring-type invocation.」
「It isn't anything special. It is simply acting in place of a staff.」

Saying that, Fiona closed both of her eyes and started an aria. Maybe because it reacted to that aria, the Obsidian Golem started to move.

Contrary to its sluggish movements, the Golem rapidly got closer, but Fiona's aria was completed faster than the Golem's attack.

「—Burst into flames, ——『Flame Tornado』 ! ! 」

Synthesized-type magic, Flame Tornado.
Rolling up a windstorm clad in flames, it wrapped up the Obsidian Golem. Wait!

「Oi, Fiona! Didn't flames not work on this guy!?!」
「Haa.....Yuu, you know, it looks like you really haven't changed at all in these three years.」

The Obsidian Golem that appeared from the bottom of the magma. Why would Fiona, who she herself said that it should have possessed a high resistance to flames, pour flame magic on it?
When I asked about that on reflex, Fiona exposed her displeasure and breathed a sigh.

「Magic is very diverse.....The point is in how it's used. If it's possible to destroy an opponent by using an offensive force that exceeds their

defense, then it's possible to reduce the opponent's strength and cause it to destroy itself. Like this.」

The Golem started to become red hot from being wrapped up in high temperature flames. Facing that Golem, Fiona pointed her finger at it.

「——Freeze——」

Lowering the atmospheric temperature of a specific spot down to polar temperatures, it's a freezing-type magic that locks up the target in a large crystal of ice. The magic that was released without an aria was only able to cover the red hot Golem's lower body, and was only at the level of obstructing the Golem's movements.

Moreover, even if it was able to restrain the Golem, it could probably break the ice in an instant and continue to advance.

The moment that I thought that, fumes rose from the Golem's body. No, that's not it. The ice that covered that body that bore a high temperature melted, and had turned into steam.

The Golem's body, which had reached a high enough temperature for it to turn red hot, was rapidly cooled down, changed back to its original black color, and then—

Bagin (Crackle)

Together with a sound that could split one's ears, a large crevice ran across the Golem's body.

「So it's shrinkage due to thermal expansion!」

「Therm.....What is that?」

When I shouted out from finally realizing Fiona's expectations, the nearby Bernadette tilted her head.

「Ah—, ...You see, when an object's temperature increases, its volume also increases.」

「 ??? 」

Damn it, even though I know the principle behind it, explaining it to a person of another world who knows nothing about it is difficult.

「St, still, it's great that you knew about that, Fiona.」

When I changed topics, Fiona breathed a small sigh.

「I don't know that this thermal expansion or whatever is, but the fact that glass breaks when it's cooled down from a high temperature is something that I was taught by Ahato.」

I see, Dwarves are knowledgeable about the properties of things like ores after all.

Go, gogogo.....

Hearing a sound that seemed like something very heavy being dragged, when we turned around, the Obsidian Golem was moving only one arm and drew near us little by little.

「Y, yer tellin' me that it wasn't defeated!?!」

「It should end if the core is taken out. Hoitto.」

Standing on top of the Golem that was moving while dragging its body, I tore out the stone that had a black luster that could be seen inside the crevice that ran through the middle of where a person's chest and stomach would be with my hand.

When I did, the Golem fell down as if it lost its strength.

「So this is the Golem's Core. It has an amazing amount of Mana.」

Having the size of a softball, when I held it in my hand, I reflexively muttered that due to the large energy that was transmitted from the Golem's Core.

『Mana』. That, which should be called the source of Maryoku, was a power that represented life that only life possessed. It's said that even the Maryoku in the atmosphere is something that was just Mana released from life and changed.

It seems that this Golem Core isn't a Magic Stone, and looks like it should be called a stone that is a crystallization of Mana.

「Hey! Hey! Black Hair! Let us see it too!」

「Ahh, sorry.」

When I tossed it over to Angelica who was badgering me, Angelica gripped the Golem's Core with both hands, and fixedly stared at it. And then, in an instant, her facial expression changed to a smile like that of a child that just thought of something wicked.

「Ha ha ha.....You really helped us out, Black Hair.」

「.....Y, you guys, could it be!」

Angelica boldly laughed with the Golem Core in one hand, and behind her, the tall and lanky guy and the shorty were making a creepy laugh that went Gufufu.

Noticing that Angelica's plans, Bernadette raised her voice.

「Yes, that's exactly it. We'll be saying our farewells right here.」

「「Saying our farewells! 」」

Saying that, Angelica's group slowly looked like they were about to leave, but,

「.....Are you guys able to go back without us?」

they solidified as if they were frozen by the words that Kuon asked.

That's right, the Three Stooges originally wanted us as escorts and as war potential. True, once they obtained a Magic Stone, their business with us would be settled, but it was now a situation where they couldn't go back or even continue forward unless they travel with us.

「I also thought this three years ago but, you guys really should work on thinking about your evil deeds.」

Chapter 111 - Twenty-first Floor

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「Ah, ahahahaha—.....C, come to think of it, Black Hair, you've become considerably handsomer than you did three years ago. I could hardly recognize you—」

「Stop trying to make an atmosphere like nothing had happened. Also, say something like that at a time where we meet again.」

Amazed by Angelica who was trying to change the subject while sweating bullets, I made a tsukkomi on reflex.

I mean, you could say that it was just way too pitiful or something, and it was like I just couldn't not say something.....

「D, damn. Then there's no other choice. Why don't we make a deal.」
「You really are a hopeless one. Even if you say deal, things would have ended if you just showed us the interior of your airship.」

「Kuh, kuu.....ㇿ」

Going *Gununu*, Angelica glared at me looking vexed. On top of digging her own grave, she managed to wring her own neck.

I really don't think the three of you all together are suited to the Pirate trade, you know?

「You've obtained the item you were aiming for, right? Then let's get going to the next floor.」

「The next floor...We've gotten to this point with pretty much no rest. Can't we take a break?」

Up until we got to this floor, we advanced through without any rest. Kuon and Bernadette seem to be fine physically, but they've been fighting the whole time. Continuing to fight means that it will get to them mentally.

Looking closely, the corners of Fiona's eyes look darker than they were at the beginning.

「Even if we were to take a break, it's impossible in place like this. If

it's on the next floor, we'll be able to even make camp.」

Saying that, Fiona, who seemed to have gotten tired of explaining, handed over the walkthrough book, and when I opened it, the features for the twenty first floor, which was the next floor, onwards was written.

「Let's see here? Concerning the floors twenty-one to thirty, more than eighty percent of the floors are submerged in water.....Oi, what does this mean?」

「Even if you ask that, it's just as it says.」

「By just as it says, you mean, eh, are we going to be alright? Are we going to be able to advance through the remaining twenty percent properly?」

「You really are annoying.....It'll be fine as long as you ascertain it with your own eyes.」

「It's because I don't want to go without a plan that I'm trying to affirm it now, you flat chest!」

「It would seem that you want to die, huh, Yuu.」

「Ah, I'm sorry. I'm begging you, so please stop smearing poison on that arrowhead.」

Fiona was silently enraged by my words that I unintentionally let out. The small bottle that she pulled out from her pocket that had a darkish colored liquid was the Fiona's specially made paralysis poison. Come to think of it, things about the chest were even more of a taboo for her than it was for Sylvia.

「It sure has gotten hot. Yashiro-aniki, even if we're going to rest, for now, I think it would be better to continue on for a bit.」

「Nice. That's a nice proposition, Kuon. As expected of my disciple.」

「Oh stop it, Aniki. You're making me blush.」

With this, it was possible to avoid the topic of breasts. Nice follow-up, Kuon!

「So a floor with nothing but water huh. If only we had my ship, 『The Black Rose』.」

True, I'd be really happy if we had a ship, but just how did you plan on carrying it all the way here. Me? Did you plan on making me carry it here?

As I was breathing a sigh, Bernadette started groaning.

「? What's wrong?」

「Nn—.....I was thinking that I don't really want to get wet in the water. I only have one set of clothing to go back in after all.」

That's true. I also only have the children's clothes that I'm wearing now and the clothes that had become baggy. If I get wet once, I'll have to stay like that.

「Sister-nee-chan, even if you get wet, you'll dry up as move about, won't you?」

「No, no, that's no good. We'll catch a cold like that.」

Bernadette made a wry smile at Kuon's manly words, but I felt stuck on something in Kuon's words.

My mind was acting in concert with Kuon's words and started moving as if trying to derive some kind of answer.

「What's going on, Black Hair?」

「.....Pirate-san, could you please stop that way you call Yashiro-san 『Black Hair』? I kind of don't like it since my hair is also black and it feels like you're being too friendly.」

「Even if you say that. Since I've been saying it before you came along, you should give up.」

「To begin with, I believe that manner of calling him that way itself is incorrect!」

「It's fine, isn't it? The person himself isn't denying it after all.」

「Like I said, I don't like it!」

The surroundings were boisterous. Sensing that my concentration was being reduced, I felt irritation from not getting an answer. In addition to that, maybe because the Cooling Magic was wearing off, I gradually felt the heat. And then—, (It's hot? This heat that feels like it would burn the skin.....That's it!!)

I finally arrived at the answer I was pursuing.



Nordyord Great Labyrinth, Twenty-first Floor.
Having reached that place, every member of Yuu's group simultaneously kept silent.

No, only at that instant, they had forgotten how to talk. They had tasted that much of a shock.

「Hey, oi, Fiona.....What is with this place.」

「What you ask, it's just as you see.」

「Just as you see you say.....This place is underground, right?」

「Yes. This is a descending type labyrinth after all.」

「Then.....Why is there sunlight underground!?!」

What was spread out before the eyes of Yuu's group was gigantic historic ruins that was being shined on by a downpour of light from the ceiling.

Chapter 112 - The Lake Bottom Historic Ruins

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At the center of a huge lake, there was a historic ruins that looked like floating and a warm light that shined upon it.

It was a scene that made us feel like we would forget that we were underground right now.

「Incredible.....」

Beside me, Bernadette muttered that in a small voice and looked like she did so involuntarily.

「.....Floors twenty-one to thirty are called 『The Lake Bottom Historic Ruins』.」

「『The Lake Bottom Historic Ruins』.....I see, that's a perfectly fitting phrase.」

When I looked into the lake, the historic ruins looked like they started from the ruins that could be seen on the lake and then extended downwards to the bottom.

「So that historic ruins-looking thing is the entrance, huh.....I see, so we have no choice but to get wet right from the start.」

Even after taking a light look around the bank, there wasn't a bridge that stretched out to the historic ruins on the lake, and there was no other means other than to swim across.

「Measuring it by eye, it's about two hundred meters.....If we make a long jump.....No, I guess the distance is slightly lacking.」

「No, no, even if we were to jump, Yashiro-san, you'd be the only one able to do that.」

「That's true.」

In that case, since we really have no choice but to swim, and since it

wouldn't be good for us to swim in our current appearance.....Kufufu.

「Could you stop with that revolting smile?」

「Guhah!?!」

With eyes that seemed like they were looking at a pig, Fiona gouged out my heart with her words. I guess I should say that she has her usual sharpness.

「Wh, why you.....Can't you speak in a way that uses a bit more indirect?」

「If there is a need to, then I will.....so, is there one?」

「Yeah..」

I returned with an immediate reply to Fiona's question. That's right, I have a secret plan. I started to explain to Fiona, Bernadette and the others.

「If we change into clothes that are fine to get wet, then there's no problem..」



「.....Now then.....I guess it's about time we get going..」

「What 「It's about time we get going」! I demand a proper explanation!」

It was a time where I finished my brief explanation, and we were about to continue on to conquering the labyrinth. Her face red, and bashfully bending her body over, Bernadette shouted.

「What the heck, I properly explain it, didn't I? Since we probably won't be able to defend against getting wet by the water, so instead we should make it so that it's alright to get wet..」

「Yes, yes, you did make that explanation. But even with that!」

Saying that, Bernadette thrust the cloth.....no, the swimsuit in her hand at me.

「Th, th-th, this isn't a swimsuit! It's just string, isn't it!?!」

The swimsuit that was grasped in Bernadette's hand was a black micro-bikini. It was a swimsuit that I bought behind-the-scenes from the Arachne that was in Altiera, Ariadne.

「The thing called a swimsuit, it isn't something like this that looks like it would come off if I were to jump into the water! L, look, there was that one that I wore before! Something like that, where the base of my neck down to the joints of my legs were covered.....」[\[1\]](#)

「Still, in the world I originally came from, this much is normal, you know? Plus, there are some that were even more amazing.」

Incidentally, what I meant by normal may or may have not been decided by what the bikini models in things like gravure magazines were wearing.

「M, more than this!? In, in any case, I won't such a shameless swimsuit! If I have to wear something like this, I would rather get my regular clothes wet!」

「Uumu. You're really stubborn. Still, Bernadette, I don't have another swimsuit for you to change into.....Rather, even if there was one, I wouldn't want you to.」

「? Why is that?」

「Because it's sexy.」

「Once you return back to your original appearance, I'm going to give you a good scolding.」

I see, so she won't punish me now that I've changed into a shota..... Maybe I should stay like this for a little while longer.

「Still.....uumu, with the current lineup, Bernadette is the one with the biggest breasts.....」

「.....Yuu, is this alright?」

「Nn? Ohh! It looks good on you, Fiona! It really suits you!」

As I was being troubled over how I was going to get Bernadette to wear the micro-bikini, I was called out to by Fiona, and when I turned my head, Fiona was wearing a white separate-type swimsuit and she was standing

there while her cheeks were a bit red.

Fumufumu.....She didn't have a chest, but for Fiona who had a model figure of having long arms and legs, the narrow part of her hips was sexy. Even if she had shadows accumulating in the corners of her eyes, or her hair was unkempt, or had tiny breasts, there was no change in the fact that she had a face and figure that could fascinate people. Rather, having a couple of minuses would be an accent and was something good.

「Yuu, just now, you thought of something rude, didn't you?」
「Hahaha, I would never. It's really cute.」

I shuddered from the sharpness of Fiona's intuition. Why is it that there's nothing but people with sharp intuition around me?

「Yashiro-aniki! Is this alright?」

「Oh! Umu, as I thought, it should be a racing swimsuit for Kuon.」

The one that appeared following Fiona was Kuon. She was wearing the so-called swimsuit for racing.

That swimsuit, where you see the body line no less than that of the school swimsuit, constricted her muscles, and yet, by being worn by Kuon who had a moderate amount of flesh on her chest and thighs, it brought about a type of gallantness and eroticism.

(Kufufu, that was a good judgement, if I do say so myself.)

To be honest, only this racing swimsuit is something I didn't plan. This race-use swimsuit is the place that Ariadne arrived at as she aimed to advance the school swimsuit.

For the me of that time, I didn't harbor any sort of interest towards the race-use swimsuits and I didn't write any blueprints like I did for the suku mizu and bikinis, but having reached this point with her own effort, Ariadne is also quite the considerable soldier. Though, I don't dare say what kind of soldier.

「Still, it's pretty amazing even though it's cloth that's this thin. It doesn't feel like it will get torn at all, and it's like.....I can feel energy, or something.....」

「It probably has various abilities placed on it. It's because the swimsuit was originally constructed to be fit for bestowing abilities.」

「Heh—.....」

Inserting her finger into the gap of thigh of the swimsuit, Kuon muttered that while fixing a wedgie. She probably didn't expect that abilities could possibly have been bestowed on clothes like these.

「Fufun. This is some pretty good equipment. Though it does have a weakness of being a bit chilly.」

Keeping her pirate hat and waist belt as they were, Angelica wore a deep red bikini and had a satisfied-looking smile. Maybe because of her tall figure, she had a figure where having the most amount of flesh and having slenderness coexisted. She possesses something good.

「.....」

「.....Bernadette?」

When I turned my head from feeling a sudden stare, there was Bernadette-san who was puffing up her cheeks, looking displeased, and staring at me with scornful eyes. Eh, did I do something wrong?

「.....I understand.」

「.....Eh?」

「Please wait a moment.」

Saying that, Bernadette went into hiding behind a cover and started to make rummaging sounds. Just what was up with her?

I guess about five minutes passed after that. Seeing Bernadette as she appeared from out of the cover, my tension suddenly skyrocketed.

「Be, Ber, Ber-Ber, Bernadette!?!」

「.....H, how is it.....」

Dyeing her cheeks in red from shyness, although she was hiding her body with her own arms, Bernadette showed that micro-bikini figure that

didn't have much clothed areas.

Th, this is.....finally.....my era has.....、

「IT'S HERE———!!」

It wasn't as much as Tre-san's but, these huge breasts that can't be covered with one hand and these vivaciously plump legs. That captivating dynamite body that was superior to those gravure models and make them run away was right before my eyes!!

「Ya, Yashiro-san? Your eyes are scary, you know?」

「Haa.....Haaa, I can't handle it anymore.....Ugeh!？」

When I instinctively dived at Bernadette, a sudden pain ran through my neck.

「Atemi! Is this alright? Elf-nee-chan.」[\[2\]](#)

「Yes. That was splendid.」

「Uguh.....Just what are you making her do, Fiona!」

「Shut up, let's hurry up and go.」

Having been put into a stupor but recovering in an instant, I drew close to Fiona, but against that look that looked like it could freeze anything, I silently nodded.

Translator's Notes:

[\[1\]](#) If you have forgotten (which I did), she tried on the school swimsuit before.

[\[2\]](#) Atemi is a term in Japanese martial arts to designate a blow to body. Please Google it if you are that interested to know. The explanation would be too long here. And I would pretty much be copying and pasting.

Chapter 113 - The Preceding Hero and the Swimsuit Episode?

*

To begin with, the human being called Yashiro Yuu was enough of a pervert that you could put 『Super』 in front of the word pervert. The disaster that occurred three years ago. Starting with the 『Tiny Breast Panties Mask』 incident, he was a front line class pervert that caused various perverted acts and incidents.

That was how Yashiro Yuu was, but recently, it could be seen that those perverted impulses were clouded out. No, certainly, he did have times where he would get stimulated from seeing things like Bernadette's thighs or women's breasts. But such things were extremely normal for men of this age. It was not something to criticize him over.

Then why was it that right now, Yuu's sexual perversions were held down. That is definitely due to the trail of recent events. Umbra at the Magic Academy Lizwadia, Zephyr at the Port City Be Io..... The connections with his past, they had probably made Yuu be serious.

.....Now then, Yuu was originally perverted enough to put super in front of pervert. Such a guy was made to restraint his sexual desires due to the recent serious incidents. If a group of beautiful girls wearing swimsuits were to appear in front of such a guy.....

「UOOOOOHHH!! Let me rub you, let me lick you, and then let me sniff yooooouuuu!!」
「I didn't think that you would fall this far.」

It was probably inevitable that he would run wild.



「Um, really, I'm sorry. No, well, it was just sudden impulse and, such a, something like not seeing everyone as anything but an outlet for my

sexual desires, it was totally not something like that.

It's just, seeing as how I am a boy as well, once tender butts and swaying boobs are displayed in front of my eyes, um, my self-control, it, you see. It kind of couldn't be helped, and for the margin for taking the extenuating circumstances into consideration.....

Ah, I'm sorry. It's nothing. You've got it wrong, I really am sorry. I was the one that made everyone in the female camp wear swimsuits and the fact that I got aroused by that and tried to do perverted things was my fault, so, in other words, everyone did absolutely nothing wrong, and I am seriously and extremely sorry for not keeping down my own sexual desires and for my depravity.」

Behold, this miserable appearance of a Hero as he prostrates himself while being surrounded in all directions by Fiona, Bernadette, Angelica, and Kuon, as he repeatedly and pathetically apologizes.



Swimming across over to the historic ruins, Yuu's group continued on through the historic ruins after lightly drying themselves off.

There was also a path where the water went up to their waists, so they continued on while still in their swimsuits, but that was where Yuu ran wild.

Those thin clothes that got wet from the water and clung onto their skin and those limbs of beautiful women that extended from those clothes. Honestly, it was a situation that would arouse anyone, not just Yuu.

The Yuu that ran wild, although he didn't draw the Sacred Sword, made full use of his bodily abilities that distanced himself from the ordinary person and rubbed the breasts and butts of the female camp, and he finally regained sanity after receiving a fist from all members.

Since they were actions where he precisely had consciousness despite saying that he ran wild, Yuu had no choice but to continue earnestly apologizing.

As if he were a husband that got caught cheating!

「Well, for me, if I think of it as paying back a debt and furthermore making him gain a debt.....I could settle with that, but what do you guys think?」

While heavily carrying a cutlass on her shoulder, Angelica broke the ice.

「If I consider it as a match in my training time, I guess there's no problem. I did hit him quite a bit after all.」

Her cheeks red, Kuon replied with that while wryly smiling.

「It's been a while since I beat the light out of you, so I feel refreshed.」

「Are you an oni?」

「I'm an Elf.」

Fiona cheerfully chuckled.

And then——

Gachi (Click)——

「Guilty」

Only Bernadette didn't forgive him.

「N, no way!」

「Th, that's my line! D, doing that to my breasts and butt, like that.....ㇿ, please take responsibility!」

「R, responsibility.....You mean like marriage?」

「Wr, w-w-w-w-wro, you've got it wrong!!」

When Yuu asked that while the muzzle was pointed at his forehead, Bernadette's face turned red and she wouldn't comply with him. At the time that Yuu thought that there was nothing more that could be done and resigned himself to his fate, some timely help was given by a character he never would have thought of.

「.....At any rate, you certainly are intimate, aren't you, you and Yuu.」

Rather than calling it a lifeboat, it was simply a change in topic. Moreover, it was a topic that wasn't intended to go along with Yuu's life or death. Asking because she wanted to ask, it was probably from that sort of aim.

「Eh.....In, intimate.....I'm not really.」

「At the very least, concerning Yuu, you seem to be a special existence to him, you know? Isn't that right, Yuu. The time when you were groping her was the longest after all.」

From those words that were said in a cold manner of speaking as if she were blaming him, Yuu went into a seiza position. Yuu's body understood that a sermon was going to happen.

「No, um, I didn't particularly have that kind of intention.....」

「Then why was her swimsuit the only one that was light and had a small area of cloth?」

「Eh, ...Be, because it suited her?」

「Why was it made in black, which is like her own personal color? Or could it be because it goes with her hair color?」

「It, it was a coincidence. 」

「Why was it only at the time that she wore the swimsuit that you were delighted as if you were aiming for it?」

「That's because her boobs were.....wait, eh? Why am I getting scolded by you, Fiona?」

「Who did you say was scolding you!」

「Hiii!？」

Yuu was frightened by the hysteric-looking Fiona.

「Yuu, in the first place, you——」

「Ah, um.....Since it seems Yashiro-san is frightened, how about we leave it at that.」

「.....To begin with, you're the biggest mystery here.」

「Eh?」

Feeling sorry for Yuu who was being scolded, Bernadette stopped Fiona, but Fiona changed the aim of the attack to Bernadette.

「You, just what are you to Yuu?」

Chapter 114 - Concerning the Girls

*

What kind of person was Bernadette to Yashiro Yuu?
In response to that question, Bernadette replied without pause.

「His ally.」

Since the time she knew of his past in Be Io, Bernadette swore that she would be Yuu's ally. (Though that didn't mean that she allowed perverted behavior)

When Bernadette replied with that, Fiona lightly waved her finger like a staff and invoked Silent Magic. The surrounding sounds vanished, and only the breathing sounds of both Fiona and Bernadette resounded in the world.

「.....You know of Yuu's true identity, don't you?」

「The Hero that saved the world together with Saint-sama and the others three years ago.....correct?」

「Yes, that's right. You, you should be a believer of the religious organization, right?」

It was a natural question. It was because the Holy Ulquiorra Religious Organization that Bernadette belonged to said that Yuu who was the preceding Hero had let the Saint die without trying to help her and treated him as the enemy of God.

「Yes. I am a nun that serves the God Ulquiorra who is our Father.」

The moment she said that, Bernadette felt an anger that was similar to bloodlust swelling up from Fiona.

「.....Then why are you Yuu's ally. At the very least, right now, shouldn't the religious organization Yuu's enemy? Even I, someone who is disinterested in the world, know that. A deed that returns evil for good..... That's the way Humans do things, isn't it? It makes me sick.」

From those words of the quietly and disinterestedly speaking Fiona,

biting words could clearly be felt. They didn't even try to hide her irritation.

「.....I also, intended on assassinating Yashiro-san at the beginning. The evil that let Saint-sama die without trying to help.....Because that was the image of the Hero that the current religious organization set forth.」

「.....Then why.」

「I heard about what happened to Saint-sama.....No, to Olivia-san.」

「 ! ! 」

Fiona grandly opened her eyes wide open. Her mouth opened, and it was a facial expression that showed she was surprised from the bottom of her heart. No, of course that would surprise her. That Yuu had talked about that much.

「I learned that Yashiro-san was not the enemy of God. That is why, I am Yashiro-san's ally.」

Fiona bit her lip from that straightforward gaze that was pointed towards her.



「Is this.....a scene of carnage?」

「Probably, I think that it is.....」

「Because of magic, we can't hear them at all.」

Maybe because she didn't want us to hear, Fiona suddenly put up Silent. I could tell that it was a dangerous atmosphere, but I had no idea about what they were talking about.

「Yashiro-aniki, can't you use lip reading?」

「I can do it if I tried but it's impossible.」

「You can but it's impossible? Is that some kind of riddle?」

「When I look at girls' lips, I get horny.」

「You seriously are so.....By the way, what about men?」

「Why the hell do I have to do so depressing like staring at a guy's lips. Refused, I refuse.」

「You really are out there, as expected of you, Yashiro-aniki.」

As we made that small talk, we felt a sensation like fog was clearing up. It seems that the Silent Magic was undone.

「.....I can't stomach it.」

Those were the first words of Fiona, who had undone the Silent Magic, and those words seemed to make the gloomy atmosphere even more heavy.

「What do you mean by can't stomach it.....」

「Both you.....And Yuu.」

Together with those words that looked like they were spit out, Fiona glared at me and Bernadette. Somehow, she was looking strange.

「Oi oi, Fiona, just what——」

「Shut up!!」

Surprised by those eyes that had hostility in them and, above all else, by the fact that the Fiona that would never do something that would raise her voice had shouted, I stopped the hand I had extended out.

「Disappearing as you pleased! Coming back as you pleased!! Turning your eyes away from the mission! Living in peace all for yourself! Getting a new woman and frivolously laughing, even though Olivia had died!! You aren't the Yuu that I once knew!!」

I was glared at as if she were looking at her parents' hated enemy by a companion that I had once traveled with.



Fiona.

While being an Elf that was called a person of the forest and was famous for her misanthropy, she was a heroic figure that had become the Imperial Court Mage of the Human country 『Leezelion』.

Although Fiona herself hated Humans, she was soft only on the Imperial Princess Sisters, Olivia, Sylvia, and Alicia, and even in the journey to subjugate the Demon Lord, she would be worried about Olivia and Sylvia. She and the three sisters, they had known each other since Olivia and the girls were born, and Sylvia stated that she was 「Like a mother, like a sister, and like a close friend」 to them.

Fiona was the only one that called them with the pet name of the Three Sisters. (Fiona wouldn't allow anyone else to)

Because Fiona was like that, she probably couldn't forgive me who looked like I had forgotten about Olivia and went on a journey.

However——,

Although she may be a former companion, there is a place that she shouldn't touch.

「Olivia isn't dead. Don't go making that mistake, Fiona.」

Chapter 115 - Bernadette's Feelings

*

Hello there everyone, I am the Holy Ulquiorra Religious Organization's nun and agent, Bernadette.

We have continued through about half of the Lake Bottom Historic Ruins layer but, goodness, right now, we've encountered a scene of carnage!

「To begin with, every little thing you made a fuss about would be “the princess this, the princess that”. A lesbian? Are you a lesbian? It's great for me every time I look, but I really don't recommend such an unproductive action.」

「Could you not soil my and the Princesses' relationship with such coarse and vulgar words? Though, well, I guess a man, moreover a pervert like you, Yuu, whose lower half and brain are connected wouldn't be able to understand.」

「You just treated me like a pervert who can only feel sexual desire for people, didn't you!? I still haven't forgiven you for completely getting in my way of having a bittersweet love design, you know!? You struck me with a high-rank magic just for holding hands with her, you tiny breasted lesbian Elf!!」

「That is actually what you are, isn't it! I'm the one that hasn't forgiven you, you know? Despite knowing that Olivia was disinterested in such things, at every opportunity, you would try to touch her butt, or look for our underwear, how can you have the nerve to deny that such a person is the incarnation of sexual desire?」

「Haa? You were also someone that looked for underwear. Wasn't the one that you particularly favored the totally meaningless bra of Sylvia's when it was wet with sweat after training?」

「Wha, wh-wh-wh-wh, Yuu, why do you know th.....!?!」

「It was by chance when I tried to peek on you guys bathing. Ukeke, whose mouth said something about the incarnation of sexual desire again? I would weally like to be tawt that~ again~.」[\[1\]](#)

「.....Yuu, who was the one that always made it so that the Princesses didn't know about your bed-wetting, could you remind me~?」

「Wha, tha, bu, you, that's not fair! That's totally not something you should say as a human being, isn't it!? Also, don't make it sound like I did it every evening and every night!」

「Unfortunately for you, I am a High Elf.」

「I'm not talking about race, you donkey ears! Are you telling me that you don't have a heart of mercy, oi.....ㇿ」

「There is no way I would have something like mercy for you.....ㇿ」

.....Though I say a scene of carnage, in terms of its level, it's a kid's fight.

The beginning of all this was a serious event.

It was a difference of views between Fiona-san who revered Olivia-san, who was Saint-sama, as the Princess of a country against Yashiro-san's Olivia-san who he had loved as a woman.

Both of them were correct, and both were thinking of Olivia-san, but Fiona was angry that Yashiro-san ran away from his Hero obligations and had lost his feelings towards Olivia-san. And Yashiro-san became angry from that Fiona-san's words, and then as if giving tit for tat with inflammatory words, it gradually became a belligerent conversation and.....,

「You tiny breasted, ero Elf!」

「Shut up, enemy of women! Pervert!」

That is how it became this exchange of reckless remarks that was like a fight between children.

「I can't tell if they get along well or not.」

I remember that Angelica-san the pirate muttered that sounding amazed.

「~~ㇿ, I'm going to sleep!」

「Hmph. I'll wake you up once it's your turn for being lookout.」

「I know that!」

Looking like he had lost his temper, Yashiro-san entered the set up tent

and left.

「This doesn't look like the time to be inviting Yashiro-aniki to some training. Bernadette-nee-chan, what'll you do? Want to take the rest first?」

Kuon-san looked at the tent and asked that.

「No, I'll be the first lookout.」

「That so. Then I'll see you later. Fuah〜」

Making a cute yawn, Kuon-san went not into the tent that Yashiro-san went into, but another one.

「This is a surprise. I thought that you would have taken the rest first.」

At those words that she said while glaring at me, I reflexively made a wry smile.

「Ah,ahaha.....It would seem that I am quite hated.」

「Sorry about that. If you're going to blame anyone, blame Yuu.」

Words of rejection that had absolutely no signs of shyness about them. From those words, I was convinced.

Ahh, this woman, to this extent, she.....

「It's fine. But, could you please not get mad at Yashiro-san? The things about Yuu, from three years ago, I unreasonably asked him about it.」

About Yashiro-san, about Olivia-san.....And then, about if he loved his comrades that he had once traveled with.

Fiona-san getting into a bad mood was also because Yashiro-san had seen my appearance in a swimsuit and had become lewd. Fiona-san couldn't forgive that I, someone that wasn't a former comrade, was being intimate with Yashiro-san.

「.....」

Fiona-san's eyes became about thirty percent sharper. It would seem that she went from caution to hostility.

「I had accompanied Yashiro-san who had been hiding his background as the Hero, selfishly felt like I had been betrayed, and then asked him. I asked 「Did you really let Saint-sama die without trying to help her?」」
「.....You know, there's no way he would have.....」

Muttering as if she were straining herself, tears were rising up in Fiona's eyes.

「Right. Looking back at it now, it's embarrassing. It's just, at that time, I was confused about various things, and I couldn't not ask about it. I mean, the man that I was gradually falling in love with was, the Hero that let the Saint-sama that I had admired for so long die without helping her.....Having that kind of misunderstanding, I had no choice but to ask, don't you think?」

When I said that, it looked to me like Fiona-san had a facial expression that said "as I thought".

「I, love Yashiro-san. Although he's a bit lewd and slovenly, I love the Yashiro-san who possesses a kind heart. Although he's immodest, I want to have a kiss from him. I want him to affectionately embrace me and whisper 「I love you」 close to my ear. This is a secret but, as long as it's Yashiro-san, when he looks at me with lewd eyes, or when he rubs my chest, happiness just overflows with in me and I feel like I'm about to go crazy. It's so fun, I'm so happy, it feels like I understand that this is what it means to fall in love with someone.」

「.....You, and Yuu」

I swung my head sideways to the words that Fiona-san started to say and responded.

「I really love Yashiro-san. But, Yashiro-san loves Olivia-san. Yashiro-san loves Olivia-san more than I, more than "we" like Yashiro-san. That's why, I, don't have that kind of relationship with Yashiro-san.」

A genuine, pure, love. [\[2\]](#)

「It's vexing. Despite having disappeared, Olivia-san has captured Yashiro-san's heart and won't part from it. It's unfair, cruel. I had

harbored such feelings against the Saint-sama that I had admired. I didn't know that falling in love with someone was something that would hurt my chest this much.」

If Olivia-san is alive, there was the possibility that she could still make Yashiro-san turn around to her (though that is probably very unlikely). But, how am I supposed to fight against an opponent that has disappeared. That's just, her quitting while she was ahead.

A love that would never come true. A thorny path, where I can't whisper my love.....Nevertheless, I,

「I, am Yashiro-san's ally. If it's for Yashiro-san's sake, I have the resolve to make an enemy of even the religious organization. It's fine even if I don't become Yashiro-san's support. I don't mind if it's just self-satisfaction. But, if there is ever a time where Yashiro-san cries again, I want to be beside him. I won't say anything self-important like I'll lend him my chest. However, I want to hear his suppressed weeping nearby the wall that hides Yashiro-san's tears.」

I love him, and I want him to love me. But more than that, I want to be Yashiro-san's ally.

This feeling is the only one that I can brag that I won't lose to anyone in. Against Fiona-san and Yashiro-san's former comrades. And then, even against Olivia-san, I don't want to lose in this feeling.

「That's why, Yashiro-san and I don't have a relationship of something like lovers. I, who call myself Yashiro-san's ally, am just selfishly accompanying Yashiro-san on his journey.」

Translator's Notes:

[1] Speaks childishly in that last sentence.

[2] The love mentioned here and the love that Yashiro-san had for Olivia in the previous line used the word “ai” instead of “suki”. “Ai” is a much stronger word for love than “suki”.

Chapter 116 - The Preceding Hero's Fear

*

「That's why, I won't forgive you. Just as you won't forgive me, I also won't forgive you.」

Bernadette turned a sharp gaze towards Fiona as if to say that she was returning the favor for being glared at before.

「Ignoring Yashiro-san's feelings, and telling him to continue fighting, I won't forgive you.」

「It's not like I have any thoughts of wanting to be forgiven. 」

Fiona replied to Bernadette's words sounding uninterested.

「I understand your reason for traveling with Yuu, and your feelings. But, ...in the end, Yuu is just running away. From his fate, from his mission.....From Olivia, he is just running away.」

Bernadette could only keep her mouth silent to Fiona's seemingly sad face as she said that.

「Yuu is scared. Of living as the Hero again, and being betrayed by people. Of reaching the point of hating and detesting people again. And then, of facing Olivia.」



「Why, didn't you save us?」

In a certain village that they stopped by in the middle of their journey. That place, before the party that Yuu and Olivia started could help them, was ruined by a group of monsters. The sole surviving little girl turned her dark, sluggish eyes at Yuu, and

「.....Unforgivable. Unforgivable unforgivable unforgivable unforgivable unforgivable unforgivable unforgivable unforgivable unforgivable. Both Hero-sama and Saint-sama, even though you said that you would protect us. Unforgivable unforgivable unforgivable.」

The little girl had her heart broken, and committed suicide as she spat

out curses.

Yuu resented the monsters, and continued the journey while being frightened by the little girl's curses.

There was a village that persecuted demi-humans like Elves and Dwarves.

The villagers treated demi-humans as if they were slaves, exploited them, and furthermore ostracized them.

The party resented them, but because it was the village's law, the villagers stopped thinking about it and continued persecuting them. Seeing the demi-humans that had bruises all over their bodies and that looked at them with eyes that seemed to fear them, Yuu felt anger towards the villagers.

There was a feudal lord that placed a heavy tax on his citizens and filled his pockets by taking advantage of his position.

Yuu saw a too skinny, starving child that was younger than him crouching on the roadside.

Sylvia and the others were riled up and went up against the country, but there was no choice but to give up.

Together with a sense of helplessness, Yuu came to possess hatred against aristocrats that imposed tyrannical rule.

A comrade that he had traveled together with him, Zephyr, had betrayed him.

Because of the Magician that desired power simply due to greed, an unhealable injury was left on Olivia's back.

Yuu came to possess suspicion against even his comrades.

There was a village that tricked the party.

They had been threatened by Mazoku, but to protect themselves more than anything, they sold out Yuu's group that was fighting for the sake of the people to the Mazoku.

After having climbed over the trap while losing some precious comrades in the fight, when he saw the people quickly change their attitudes and come obsequious with them, Yuu became unable to figure out the

meaning of his own existence.

「Is there really superiority or inferiority between fellow living beings?」

Seeing the religious organization turn demi-humans and heretics into slaves, Yuu muttered that.

「What, am I fighting for?」

It wasn't because he wanted to receive gratitude. It wasn't because he wanted to sell favors.

But, it wasn't like he wanted to be betrayed.

Having his heart, his feelings betrayed, Yuu muttered that while in tears.

「Is there, any value in being saved to a person?」

Gloomily muddying his black eyes just like that little girl, Yuu muttered that with a cracked voice.

The one who saved that Yuu, ...the heart of that Yuu whose heart was broken, who had accumulated only hatred for people, who was about to become the second Demon Lord, the one who saved him was Olivia. By simply holding him tight, caressing his head, being beside him, Olivia continued to turn a gentle smile towards Yuu.

That was all. Nothing more than that.

However, to the Yuu of that time, that warmth was what he wanted more than anything else.

There are times where people would hurt other people. Where they would make each other suffer.

However, in the same way as that, no, even more than that, people were able to heal other people.

Having come to understand that, Yuu decided to bet on the hearts of people.

If it were the people that possessed this warmth, the world should change in a good direction.

Yuu roused himself, and fought with the Demon Lord for the sake of the people's future. All while knowing that beyond that, his own future would

be gone.

But at the end of that, Yuu lost the one that taught him about the warmth of people, Olivia.

Guessing Yuu's true feelings as he staked his own future for the sake of the people's future and planned for mutual destruction with the Demon Lord, Olivia became an existence that was only a soul, entrapped the Demon Lord, and produced Yuu's future.

「.....So I'm running away, huh.」

Yuu muttered that in a small voice. It was because in the middle of his snoring and sleeping in the same tent as the shorty and the tall lanky person that were Angelica's subordinates, he heard the voices of Fiona and Bernadette who were on watch.

「.....I'm the worst, aren't I.」

It was at times like this that he came to hate his own inhuman physical abilities.

.....And then, hearing Bernadette's feelings, he came to hate himself. He knew about Bernadette's feelings.

He didn't know the reason why he was liked. But, Yuu had noticed the awakening of love that Bernadette had towards him.

Upon noticing it, he pretended to not have perceived it.

It was because he felt that he would probably not be able to fall in love with any woman besides Olivia.

Right now, even after learning that Bernadette's feelings weren't his own false impressions, he wasn't welling up with happiness.

Ahh, so it really was like that.

Thinking that, it was enough for him to feel disgust at how cold he was to it.

And then, there was Fiona's words.

Running away.

.....That was exactly it.

He was running away. Yuu was, running away from everything.
From the world, from his comrades.....From Olivia.
The truth was that he needed to properly face them all.

And yet, he was running away.

Because he was scared.

Of having that feeling once more.....That feeling of starting to hate
people.

That feeling of, becoming unable to trust his comrades.

And then.....if at the time he became like that again, would he properly
return to how he was.

Olivia who had saved him at that time was no longer there.
She became only a soul, and confined the Demon Lord.

As long as Olivia wasn't there, there was no next time. Next time,
wouldn't he himself change into the Demon Lord?
He was apprehended by such a fear.

Chapter 117 - The Preceding Hero and the Flash Flood?

*

「Kikiki.....A bit more, just a bit more.」

In a deep, dark place, there was a little girl. The Vampire Princess Paimon.

Holding a crystal ball that was the size of a softball in one hand, she looked into the crystal sphere, and because of the welling up feelings of delight, her mouth was turned up into a smile.

「With just a bit more.....My wish will come true!」

What was reflected in her eyes were the black haired young boy and girl.

「For 1200 years, I have waited.....ツ!」

Recalling it, anger welled up.

「1200 years of being sealed in this land by the miko, and having my power snatched away that that witch.....Finally, my wish.....My household's dearest wish will come true!!」

Putting strength into her grip, the crystal ball made a sound, crumbled, and scattered. However, without stopping to even care about it, she raised her hand overhead.

「Lineage of Miko 『Sora』, come before me. With you as the sacrifice, I shall bloom once again as the “King that Controls Demons”!! Ancestors, see me clearly. Miko, watch me, and Witch, wash your neck and wait for me. I, shall rule all in this world!!」

Her golden eyes gleamed ominously within the darkness.



Having spent the night in the tents, we continued through the floors with great vigor.

This was because, compared to the floors until now, the number of appearing monsters was gradually getting smaller.

And then, when we got close to the boss floor, finally, the monsters stopped appearing.

「That's weird, normally, they would be coming out to the point of being really unpleasant.」

Fiona muttered that while surveying the vicinity.

Without anything but the walls, the ceiling, the water that submerged us up to our ankles, and the floor existing, the figures of monsters trying to obstruct us couldn't be seen at all.

「We're lucky that they're not coming out. I guess that kind of thinking really would be unreasonable, wouldn't it?」

It's not like that possibility couldn't happen, but Bernadette's thought probably wasn't right.

Now that Fiona, who has dived into this labyrinth many times over, has felt that something was abnormal, there should be something that is happening.

「 ! Yashiro-aniki, there's something here.」

Her fox ears standing up right and her being vigilant, Kuon extended her hand to the short sword on her waist.

When I grasp the handle of the Magic Sword so as to follow suit, the Magic Sword Ravenbrand groaned with an 「Uumu」.

「What's wrong? Making a weird voice like that.」

「.....Kiddo, this jus' might be terrible opponent.」

「Ah?」

As it was about to say something, as if acting in concert with Ravenbrand's words, that suddenly happened.

「っ!? Everyone, get behind me!!」

「Eh.....」

A rumbling and ominous sound engulfed the vicinity, and in the next instant, a raging stream of a height that easily surpassed our heights came rushing at us.

「Wh, what is up with this all of a sudden!?!」

Angelica panicked from the nearing raging stream that came with a force that surpassed imagination. Of course she would. Just a little while ago, no, just a second ago, this suddenly happened even though it was all calm.

「Kuon, use 『Zetsuei』!!」

「Leave it to me, Aniki!」

Drawing her short sword, Kuon lined up beside me, and made a blade of Maryoku on her short sword.

「『Zetsuei』!」

「Uooohhhh!!」

Kuon fired the blade of Maryoku at the same time she swung, and I fired a slash wave that was born from the after-effect of swinging Ravenbrand downward.

The blade of Maryoku and the slash wave tore up the raging stream.....

And the scattered water became spears and went through my shoulder.

「っ, Magic!?」

Nay, it wasn't magic. However, the "thing" that I mistook for magic went through my body.

「Uwaah!?」

「Kuon! Tsk!!」

The spears of water also made an attack on Kuon who had also cut the raging stream beside me, and they went through her left foot and thigh.

「Yashiro-san! Kuon-san!!」

「Use Heal on Kuon! I won't let you make a second attack!!」

Leaving Kuon to Bernadette, I tore up the spears of water that once again attacked us.

When I cut up about ten of the spears of water, the attack came to a sudden stop, and in exchange, the water at our feet was drawn back, and in the end, the water had disappeared.

「Just what in the world was that.」

When I sheathed the Magic Sword into its scabbard, my eyes met with Fiona's.

「I didn't feel the power of the spirits. Most likely, it's an opponent that specializes in manipulating water.」

「I bet.」

Magic was a marvel that appealed to the surrounding spirits and would then get invoked. Since it was Fiona, who was able to feel nearby spirits, that was saying this, there was no doubt about it.

If that's the case, the only other thing I can think of is an 『Ability』.

Things like 『Snatch』 that Zephyr possesses, or 『Foresight』 that Baba-

chan and Lililuri possess, they happen without borrowing the power of the spirits, and are the embodiment of marvels that are similar to magic yet completely different.

「However, if that's the case.....Is it a Mazoku?」

Starting with Agniera and Terakio, most of the Mazoku's fighting techniques are things that come from their personal abilities. Agniera specialized in manipulating flames, and Terakio could change the hardness of his body into something similar to steel.

If it were a Mazoku, freely manipulating water wasn't impossible.

「Is it the work of that Vampire?」

「.....That's probably, not it.」

That girl was similar to Baba-chan in that she was a theatrical type that liked to see people's reactions to her deeds. If they were to meet with Paimon, she should be waiting in the waiting in the boss room.

「Oi, kiddo, could I get a sec?」

As I was worrying, the sheathed Ravenbrand called out to me.

「What's wrong?」

「.....I have an idea on what it is.」

I was surprised by the words of the Magic Sword that waited a bit before answering.

「You know what it is!? Wait, why do you know about it?」

「I had cut it before. It was strong, and we weren't able to defeat it but..... It's probably that guy.」

「Cut it you say.....What's its name?」

When I asked that, Ravenbrand said each word with a low voice.

「Sea King Dragon Leviathan. It's a Marquis-class Mazoku.」

Chapter 118 - Preceding Hero, Rush the Enemy

*

Sea King Dragon Leviathan.

It's a dragon possessing a long body like that of a snake, and it is also a magic dragon possessing the power to manipulate even the weather. In port cities, it is also treated like a Namahage where people say 「Bad children that don't do what they're told, the Leviathan will come and eat them.」

「For argument's sake, let's say that it is a Leviathan.....Why is such a monster within the depths of a labyrinth like this?」

Having been informed by the port city-raised Kuon and having heard the legend of the Leviathan, I involuntarily breathed a sigh.

「Originally, our opponent should have been several Slime Golems. Since that's the case.....This is clearly the work of that Vampire.」

Opening the walkthrough book, Fiona similarly sighed. Slime Golems are, just as the name suggests, magical puppets where water that became a gel-like substance took on a human shape. Compared to the types of Golems made with materials like rocks, the abilities of each one is low, but since they always exist with several of them being there, they specialize not in fighting as an individual but in fighting as a group. Several Slime Golems and a court rank holding Magic Dragon.....Clearly the latter was a more formidable enemy.

「Since she said that she led an army of two hundred, couldn't it be a subordinate of that Vampire?」

「Then that would mean that Vampire is at Duke-class. For such a monster to be in a place like this, I really want to be given a break.....」

If that Vampire Paimon really is at Duke-class, I'll have no choice but to

use the Sacred Sword with no arguments about it.

But I just can't help but think that Vampire isn't that strong.

「Oi oi, right now, instead of the Vampire, it's about the Leviathan, right? Hey, Black Hair, you can win against it, right?」

In response to Angelica's question that tried to confirm things, I nodded.

Although it's called a Marquis, its true strength could go from the best of them to the worst of them, and even if it were strong, it wouldn't reach Duke-class. If it isn't Duke-class, then it's possible to deal with it.

「Then we only have to continue on. Come on, let's go!」

「「Aye, Captain.」」

Angelica's followers, the shorty and the tall lanky guy, started walking in succession with Angelica.

Getting cocky like that with the thought that other people will be fighting.....Still, I guess it's true that we can't advance if we only worry about things.

「Kuon and I will act as the vanguard. Bernadette and Fiona will be the rear guard. Let's go with this.」

Kuon, Bernadette, and Fiona, the three of them nodded in agreement.



「『So you've come, children of man.』」

The labyrinth's 30th underground floor, in the Lake Bottom Historic Ruin's boss room, that guy was there. It was the gigantic Magic Dragon that possessed a long body like that of a snake, Leviathan.

The water surrounding the Leviathan was surging, becoming waterspouts and drifting about.

Angelica and the rest of the Three Stooges had already moved behind us due to the dense killing intent that was being released from the Magic Dragon.

「This guy.....so it's the Alexelia Language.」

Having had experience with the words that the Magic Dragon gave out, I recalled that they were of the old grammar magic language.

「Spirit language (Alexelia)? Yashiro-san, you're able to handle Spirit language?」

「Pretty much.」

Lightly nodding to Bernadette, I exchanged looks with Fiona.

「.....『Marquis-class Leviathan. If there is a reason for your enmity against us, we would like to hear it beforehand.』」

Nodding at me, Fiona asked that of the Magic Dragon in fluent Alexelian.

「『What my master desires is the extinction of the lineage of the miko.....I cannot say any more than that.』」

The Leviathan honestly answered the question. I see, it looks like it's a Mazoku of the older generation.

Among the living Mazokus from the ancient era, many of them are lordly, and some of them surprisingly can be reasoned with despite them being hostile.

Among the Six Blade Generals, Tonitrus was the eldest, wasn't he?

The youngest is their Wintos, or if reincarnation is included, it would be Agniera who immediately reincarnates every time she dies.

And then, with this just now, we learned that that Vampire had placed this Leviathan as her subordinate.

「『Do not resist too much, children of man.』」

And then, together with enough bloodlust to feel like it was oozing out, water was fired out from the Leviathan's mouth with a speed that surpassed the speed of sound.

The Breath attack that was the special move of dragons. That which the water attributed Leviathan fired is something that should be called a laser of water and specializes in its penetrating power. The water was compressed and fired to a level where if something like the human body

were to be hit, forget being pierced through, it would burst and scatter with nothing remaining.

Such a thing,

「——Hear my wish and grant it, o spirits of the gales (Dima, yolge tur, win elementia).....『Wind Wall』 ! 』[\[1\]](#)

it was dispersed by the barrier of wind that Fiona put up.

「You two, here we go!」

Jyaki Her Magic Gun at the ready, Bernadette shouted. Having drawn our Magic Sword and short sword as if in response to her, she shot body strengthening magic bullets at me and Kuon.

「Let's go, Kuon.」

「Leave it to me, Aniki!」

At almost the same time that I started running, Kuon broke out into a run while holding her short sword with a reverse grip and while keeping her posture low.

When we did, the water that covered our footing boiled up and a spear of water came swooping down on both me and Kuon.

Daan!

A gunshot ruled the inside of the room, and in the next instant, the spear of water scattered.

Bernadette was providing covering fire through her Magic Gun.

Bernadette was set up not with her pistol-type guns, but with a sniper-type gun. This was the reason why Bernadette was made to be the rear guard this time.

The plan was to have Bernadette shoot down all of the attacks that were meant to stop us in our tracks.

「Here we go, Raven!」

「Right!」

Unfastening the scabbards latch and unsheathing the Magic Sword, I

jumped up.

「『That sword is.....つ!!』」

「Heheh, looks like it was true.」

At the moment I drew Ravenbrand, the Leviathan was surprised, and then it laid its hatred bare.

Having understood that what the Magic Sword had said was true, while in the middle of my jump, I pointed the tip of the sword towards the Magic Dragon while balling up my body.

「『The Magic Sword that left a scar on mine self.....I shall crunch you up whole!!』」

The gigantic mouth that looked like it could easily crunch a single house opened up.

The fangs that were lined up and closely packed at the top and bottom were sharp, and gave the impression of being sharks' teeth. Naturally, it was the Leviathan's complete victory in terms of brutality.

「Clench, your teeth, got it?」

Suddenly, a penetratingly cold voice reached my ear, and next,

Gouu!! (Thunderous roar)

“Something” vigorously collided with my body.

「Gagii, u, guh, oOOOHH!!」

The bones in my body broke from the impact of being hit, and I was “blown away” towards the Leviathan.

The impact that was hard enough to make me think that I was hit by a truck or something was the wind magic that Fiona fired. Because I received that shell of wind at point-blank range, I was blown away.

Of course,

「I've got youuuuu!!」

It was all just as planned.

Translator's Notes:

[1] This part really kicked my butt and held me up for so long. After a month, I decided to give up. If someone could help me, I would really appreciate it. This is how the translated part was to be read: デイマ, ヨルゲ・トゥール. If it helps, here is how it would be read normally: 私の願い, 聞き届け賜え.

Chapter 119 - Display of a New Technique

*

As for why Fiona who was in the rear guard was in point blank range of Yuu, in order to talk about that, it will turn into a talk about the anti-Leviathan strategy that Yuu and his party had thought of.

Something like that didn't exist. Having become small, Yuu became unable to exert all of his strength. What was particularly obvious was that his arms and legs had become shorter, which deteriorated his running speed and attack range.

What was thought up in order to compensate for that was 『By blowing away Yuu with Wind Magic, the blown away Yuu would kill the Leviathan』. Such a thing was a childish tactic that couldn't be called a strategy.

First, Yuu and Kuon would take the lead and get near the enemy. Then, when they were right in front of the Leviathan, Kuon would activate a disposable Transfer Magic charm and transfer Fiona over. Finally, she would hit a shell of wind into Yuu.

The reason why Kuon took the lead together with Yuu was because Kuon was the only one that could keep up with Yuu who still surpassed the limits of an ordinary person despite having been weakened, and because the need to transport Fiona close to Yuu had appeared.

「Tsk!」

Yuu swung the Magic Sword. He had made a horizontal cut from the Magic Dragon's mouth to its neck, but the wound was shallow. The Leviathan's golden eye caught sight of Yuu.....No, caught sight of the Magic Sword and would not separate its gaze from it.

「『So, again, you intend on placing a wound on me, Magic Sword!!』」

「Heh, tha's because my duty is to cut things down.」

While fresh blood was coming out from the cut that went from the corner of its mouth to its neck, the Leviathan came attacking without

even trying to hide its hatred towards the Magic Sword.

Although he had given a wound to it as if ignoring the dragon's scales that were harder than steel through the use of 『Zantetsu』, it seems that it didn't reach the level of being a fatal wound.

「You're surprisingly hated, aren't you!」

Having noticed that the aim of the Leviathan's anger wasn't towards the user of the sword which was Yuu, but towards the Magic Sword, Yuu said that as if spitting it out.

「'Course I am. To those guys, I'm an irreconcilable enemy after all.」

「Enemy? Nowah!?!」

About to be struck by the Leviathan's tail the moment he landed, Yuu defended with the belly of the sword.

The ground under his feet was broken from the impact, and he was buried into the ground up to around his knees.

「Guuh.....Dammit, I can't move around!!」

It was a mass and pressure that not even Yuu, who possessed physical abilities that were superior to ordinary people, could force back.

In the middle of such adversity, Yuu——

「But still.....It's not like I need to move.」

Niyari (Grin). He made a fearless smile.

「Secret Technique——」

Repositioning the short sword that was held with a reverse grip, the tip was pointed forward. Even while it was gushing blood right in front of its eyes, the Magic Dragon was bent on defeating Yuu.

With the dragon scales that were harder than steel cut off, all that remained was a wound that was just asking to be opened.

Right there, it would be pierced through.

「『Zettouga (Severing Sword Fang)』」

The high speed movement technique that packed Maryoku into one's

legs and made that explode the moment one stepped forward, 『Shukuchi』. And then, the magic that created a blade of Maryoku and increased the ability of the sword itself, 『Magic Clad Sword』.

Mixing together the two techniques she was taught from Yuu, although it was crude, Kuon created a single technique.

It was the ultimate 『simply a thrust』 that raised the power and speed to their utmost limits.

「『Wha.....Gufuuh!?!』」

The Leviathan that had its awareness turned only towards the Magic Sword moaned in pain, and subsequently, fresh blood flooded out from the wound.

No, that wasn't all. The thrust that had been sublimated to its utmost limits had shown that it had gone through the dragon's body, through its skin, and shot through its large frame.

「Heheh.....I guess it turned out well for the first time.」

Kuon herself had gone through it, then, looking up at the Magic Dragon that she had gone through, she wryly smiled. Though, the price that she paid for that was that her whole body was covered in the dragon's blood.



「Uhih, Kuon, you kind of smell, you know?」

「So mean! You were the one that made me do it, Aniki!!」

Having brought down the Leviathan, when I got close to Kuon who had become covered in blood, mowah, there was the stench of blood and I reflexively pinched my nose.

「Still, that was skillfully settled. A two-stage plan where Yashiro-san opens a breaching point and Kuon-san brings it down.」

Bernadette looked up at the defeated Leviathan, looking like she was in admiration.

「The cause of our victory was because the Leviathan had snapped at Yuu.....No, at the Magic Sword more than we expected.」

Fiona glanced at the Magic Sword Ravenbrand, and then gazed at the Leviathan that had its body gone through and “looked” like it had died.

「Snapped at, huh. That’s a perfectly fitting phrase. So? You’re going to tell us what that was all about, right?」

「Well, it’s not like it’s somethin’ meant to be kept secret. Well, I guess it could be considered as a reward to the swordsman that was able to handle me after such a long time.」

When I thrust the Magic Sword into the floor and asked that, the Magic Sword acknowledged the question with an attitude that said it was reluctant.

「Oi, kiddo. Do ya remember the words I said just a little while ago?」

A little while ago.....then that means,

「To them, you’re an irreconcilable enemy.....you mean that?」

「Ou, that’s the one. Ya see, thousands of years earlier, I was a Magic Sword forged for the sake of killing Mazoku.」

We all reflexively took one step back from the words that the Magic Sword had said that as if it were reciting them.

「Kuhahahah, don’t worry, I won’t curse ya or anythin’.」

The reason why we stepped back was because we were trying to make some distance.

A sword that was forged in the midst of intense hatred, many of them would become a 『Maken』 in the bad meaning of the word.

Granting immense power to the user, but simultaneously calling disaster upon the user, it often became that kind of curse.

「Since it’s a considerably old story, so I can’t remember most of it but.....The swordsman that wielded me was small just like you, kiddo, but had strength like that of a monster. Together with that swordsman’s competency, I slaughtered all kinds of Mazoku. Huge breasted Onee-chan over there, do you know what the method of defeating, no, the “method of killing” is?」

Having been suddenly called out, Bernadette crossed her arms and started thinking while groaning with an U—n. That feeling that something similar to bloodlust was overflowing from Fiona the moment the words “huge breasted” came out was probably my imagination, it must have been.

「I basically specialize in humans after all.....Ah, could it be something like their head is their weakness?」

Come to think of it, she was an Agent, wasn't she. Since she hasn't been calling herself that recently, I had completely forgotten.

「I'm sorry to say that's not it. In tha' case, the tiny breasted Onee-chan over there——」

「.....I'll answer but, if you call me that way again next time, I'll break you.」

Ravenbrand didn't show any signs of breaking even when I handled it roughly, but it was strange because when Fiona said that, it seemed like she really would break it. Scary.

「Good grief.....Mazoku are essentially astral bodies, and when they appear in this world, they reincarnate into an object that draws Maryoku. No matter how many times their physical body is about to break, as long as the Mazoku's real body, their astral body, isn't destroyed, they will appear in this world any number of times. There are two means of defeating those Mazoku. To have it lose just like us and the spirits or maybe even more than that and kill it, or to directly attack their astral body——That's right, you're the latter, where in you are able to directly wound the Mazoku's astral body, aren't you?」

Fiona nodded, looking like she understood. I was also able to understand why the Leviathan had so obstinately aimed at this Magic Sword.

The astral body that Fiona mentioned was, although exactly different, an existence that was something like a variety of a soul. Then the Mazoku receive direct attack to there, the damage is transmitted to even their real form. In the worst case, if it's a fatal wound, that Mazoku gets annihilated.

Not a paranormal existence like the Sacred Sword, an existence called a 『Magic Sword』 that was created by humans and was able to kill Mazoku. To them, that itself was something that couldn't be allowed, and furthermore, the Leviathan had once fought with Ravenbrand. That probably brought it nothing but humiliation. They really can be called irreconcilable enemies.

「Well, it's because of that that I'm seen as something that killed their parents.」

「You are something like a natural enemy to them after all. Now then.」

Ending the conversation, when I looked over at the Leviathan, a figure slightly squatting on top of that defeated big frame entered my field of vision.

「Kiki, to think that you would really take down even Levie. Though you do not reach the level of those guys, it would seem that you possess something that comes close to it.」

Ketaketa Having laughter that was similar to that of a child, it was the Vampire Princess, Paimon.

「This is a reward for taking down Levie, the one that boasted of being the strongest amongst my retainers. Kiki, lineage of the miko, your appearance, I shall restore it to its original form.」

Saying that, Paimon pointed her fingertip towards me.....And a transformation appeared in an instant.

「Guh, ...Ugh, uoooooh! I'm, I'm back to normallllll!!」

My whole body became flaccid, and next, there was the sensation of it enlarging. And then, my body became as it was before.

「Sorry to do this while you're so delighted, but could you conceal that crude thing?」

「Nn? Oh, ooh!?!」

When I followed Fiona's gaze and looked down, as an adverse effect of

my body becoming bigger, the size no longer matched and caused my trousers to tear, and, with nothing to hold it down, my son was casually swaying about.

「Ba, baka! This is a so-called standby state you see, and if it were to get serious then——Wapuh!?!」

「I'm telling you to conceal it, baka Yuu!」

Fiona took out my clothes from the luggage that was placed on Silber and tossed them over.

Still, I can finally wear my former clothes. These clothes, I've continued to wear them since Luxeria and I've grown attached to them.

「Fuu.....We've kept you waiting, Paimon. After the Leviathan, you're next.」

Wearing my cloth clothes, I pointed the tip of the Magic Sword at Paimon who was smiling looking like she was in a good mood. But Paimon received my words and raised the corners of her mouth and looked even more delighted.

「Kikiki! Yeah, I have been waiting. One thousand and two hundred years.....All for this moment.」

Unfolding bat wings, Paimon got down to the ground. When she did, suddenly, the Leviathan became a large amount of water and then, together with a roaring sound that was like that of a waterfall, it started streaming within the room.

「How dare you.....How dare you, you lowly human.....ツ!!」

In the place that the Leviathan had fallen just a little while ago, there was a single woman collapsed.

Not wearing anything that could be called cloth, it was a woman that exposed her naked body. That woman's skin was blue, and things that looked like fins were growing from the spot that ears should be at. Maybe because she couldn't get any strength in even when she tried to get up, she raised her head and glared at us.

「Calm down, Levie.」

Paimon commanded that woman.

「B, but.....」

「'Tis fine even if there is a human that can get the better of a Mazoku. I shall burn that person, you know? Kiki!」

When Paimon said that, she waved her dress, and started to walk towards the door headed to the next floor.

「O, oi!」

「Kiki, come follow along.」

Not taking no for an answer, Paimon stepped forward.

「Tsk.....Looks like, we've got no choice.」

To me, the entrance that lead to the next floor looked like the mouth of a gigantic monster, and there was nothing I could do about it.

Chapter 120 - The Preceding Hero and the Preceding Saint

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「I am sure that you have already noticed but.....The weather outside has become strange due to me.」

Heading towards the labyrinth's 31st underground floor, we descended down the long staircase.

With the Vampire Princess Paimon as the lead, the order was me, Bernadette, Kuon, the three stooges and Silber, and then Fiona.

「Well, I'm sure it is.」

It was only intuition, but having felt something close to conviction, I nodded without showing any particular surprise.

「I had just woken up, you see.....Even though I tried to fix the crumbling weather, it had been such a long time since I had handled Maryoku, so I was in a bind.」

Is she seriously saying that she was only waking up when it has been over two weeks since all of this started happening.....As usual, the Mazoku's scale is huge.

「In order to regain mine own senses, I needed you of the miko lineage to carry out your duty. Kikiki!」

When we descended the stairway that was long enough to make me think “wasn't this long enough for two or three floors worth of stairs?”, we suddenly saw the exit.

「Duty? Wait, what, is this?」

Having descended the long stairway and reaching the 31st floor, what spread out before our eyes was a room with enormous airspace and black walls that spread out and filled up our field of vision.

It was a room where there was no entrance leading to the next floor, and

no matter which direction you looked, there was nothing but black walls possessing a luster like that of polished stone.

No, what is this? Something is on the wall.....

「? What could this be? There is some kind of lettering on the walls.....?!? Th, these are, Sacred Letters. These are Sacred Letters, Yashiro-san!」

Having noticed that there were letters carved into the black walls, Bernadette ran up to a wall, and raised her voice.

「Sacred Letters? What is that?」

Hearing about the Sacred Letters, Angelica tilted her head.

「It's one of the old magic languages. It's one of the languages that are hard to learn, and the ones that try to memorize it exclusively only the people of the church. By the way, I can't read them.」

And then, the magic that used Sacred Letters was a magic system called 『Holy Arts』, and in terms of anti-demon and anti-ghost, it's a magic powerful enough to be a head above the rest.

「That's right, ...The room of the 『Monolith』 engraved with 『Sacred Letters』. This place is, the innermost area of the Nordyord great labyrinth.」

Monolith.....It's a stone monument that is something like a relic and is occasionally excavated.

Inscribed contents are varied, from things like an empire's history to a song that a person from the ancient days wrote.

They are manmade structures with historical value.

A room surrounded with such monoliths.....Just what is written on them?

「Although not everything has been explained yet, I do understand that this labyrinth is sealing equipment that contains the 『Evil Deity』.」

Ahh, come to think of it, she did say that at the beginning. Though weaker than the Demon Lord, it was a troublesome opponent that needed to be contained.....

「More accurately, it would be correct to say that it “was” sealed.」

「Was sealed? Then, right now, the Evil Deity isn't here?」

「Umu. The one that was sealed after the 『Evil Deity』 was gone was me after all. Kiki!」

Distorting her pretty face, the corners of her mouth were greatly raised.

「Crossing over a time of a thousand years, you have done well to appear before me! Kiki, lineage of the miko, release me from this seal, and capitulate to my command!!」

With tension that looked like a *Baba-n!* sound effect would go well with it, Paimon declared that. But, 「No way, that's such a pain.」

Of course, there's no way I would accept that.

「Fue!? Wh, why?」

「Even if you ask me why, there's no one that would agree to that after suddenly being told that.」

When I refused, Paimon's fearless smile vanished, and, in exchange, she became flustered and made a face that looked like she would cry at any moment now.

「I, I mean! Sora had said that she would take me out of here, you know!?!」

「I don't know anything about that! Rather, who is this Sora?」

「You know not of Sora either, you fool! You are her descendant, are you not!」

「Descendant.....Right, that. Why do I have to be that Sora guy's descendant?」

We came here with me harshly being called the lineage of the miko or something, but I don't think that I have something like that among my ancestors. To begin with, I'm not from Reynbrook and was born in Earth's Japan.

「Ya, Yashiro-san.....Do you not know of 『Sora』-sama!?!」

「Eh.....Is she that famous?」

Beside me, Bernadette came asking me that with a facial expression that looked like she had just received a culture shock.

Uumu, Sora, Sora, Sora.....I don't know her.

「Eh, Aniki, you don't know who that is!?!」

「Oi oi, that's a name that even I know, you know?」

「Kuon and Angelica, even you guys know her!? Is it the name of some king somewhere?」

Not good, if even these two know of her, they must be a person of considerable fame. But, I really have no recollection of that name.

「Vivianne Minato Sora Angelic.....That is the honorable name of the First Generation Saint-sama.」

「Wh, whaaaaatttt!?!」

Oi oi, are you serious? If that's the first generation Saint, then that would be the Saint of Baba-chan's time, right? So she was called Sora.....It kind of feels like if you only look at the middle, it's a name like that of a Japanese person.

No, was she Japanese? Looking at it from this world, Luxeria is extensively knowledgeable about Earth which should be another world.

Although they don't have a means of voyaging to another world, there is Summoning Magic that can call a Hero from Earth.

The likelihood that the First Generation Saint-san was also called here by Summoning Magic or something is high.

「Kikiki, how is that, how is that, Sora is famous, is she not?」

「Why the heck are you acting so proud of it.」

「Of course I am, Sora was planning on capitulating herself to me after all! Kikiki, that short Elf had hindered me many a time, but in the end, Sora's heart turned towards me!」

Short Elf.....That's most likely Baba-chan. That's only a guess though.

「It was planned? So in the end, she didn't become your subordinate?」

When Fiona asked that, Paimon nodded, and just as she did, her tension dropped and she became gloomy.

「Right before her conclusion with the 『Demon King』, Sora had said this. 「Someday, I will definitely come to open it, so until then, stay in here.」.....you see. Though, in the end, Sora did not undo my seal.....」

Shobo-n Falling into a slump, Paimon started writing traces of letters on the ground. With her in this state, it looks like she had been considerably charmed by that predecessor-san.

Still, the Saint capitulating to a Mazoku, huh. Did Predecessor-san not want that and decide to seal Paimon in this labyrinth?

.....No, most likely, that shouldn't be it. Since Baba-chan was around as well, if they really put their minds to it, it would be possible to really kill this Paimon. Seeing as how they didn't do that.....Conversely, could it be that they sealed her because they didn't want to kill her?

Paimon and Predecessor-san should have had a strong relationship of mutual trust. Strong enough for her to believe that even though the one that had confined her here did not visit and even now that a thousand years have passed, that the descendant of Predecessor-san had come to undo the seal.

「Well, right now, that does not matter. Lineage of the Miko Sora, hand to me a small dose of blood. It is possible to release the seal with that.」

Paimon held her hand out at us. And then,

「Are you, telling us to believe in something that a Mazoku said?」

Bernadette pointed the muzzle of her Magic Gun at Paimon. That voice cruelly cold.

「Oi, Bernadette!」

「Please do not be bewildered by the words of a Mazoku, Yashiro-san. Besides, there's no way Saint-sama would capitulate to a Mazoku! Moreover, if it were me, to do something like that against the Mazoku

that detest me, I wouldn't be able to do it.」

Bernadette put strength into her fingertip.

「Don't do it, calm down, Bernadette.」

「Conversely, I want to ask you this. Why, why are you able to remain so calm?」

When I close of the Magic Gun's muzzle with my hand, Bernadette glared at me.

「Humans harbor unpleasant feelings against Mazoku. It's the same in reverse, it's been devised that humans and Mazoku would mutually hate each other.」

「? What're you saying.....」

「It's just that only the 『Hero』 and the 『Saint』 are not applied to that structure. Even Olivia, she didn't harbor any unpleasant feelings against Mazoku.」

That's right, just as humans unconditionally harbored unpleasant feelings against Mazoku, Mazoku also harbored unpleasant feelings against humans.

However, with me the 『Hero』 and Olivia the 『Saint』, we were the only ones that that arrangement didn't apply to.

「Wh, why do you know about that?」

「I said it before, didn't I? I “know”.」

I don't know if it's a proper arrangement. But, I certainly do understand.

「If you're fine with my blood, suck it, Vampire.」

「Kiki, good answer. Well then.」

Busuri

The Vampire Princess's fangs pierced deep into my arm.

Chapter 121 - The Preceding Hero and the Vampire Princess

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「Kaa~, what is with this blood. Disgusting, too disgusting! It is bland and has a fishiness that is characteristic of (male) virgins. This kind of blood is not worth drinking.」

「Why you little」

「J, just calm down, Aniki!」

「Kuon, move it! I can't kill her!」

Th, this girl, even though I let her drink because she said to hand over some blood, she had the gall to go and call me a virgin.....ツ!
There are other ways of saying it, like cherry boy or something, dammit!

「Well, the taste aside, right now, removing my seal is top priority. Ah—, I sure do want to drink up a large cask full of an innocent young woman's blood—.」

While saying something that made her sound like a heavy drinker, Paimon walked up to the front of the monolith, and when she came to a stop, *peta*, she pressed both of her hands on the monolith's wall.

「Kikiki, finally, my seal shall be undone.....! Take a good look, lineage of the miko. Admired as a peerless beauty, this is my true formmm!!?」

Paimon had declared that while brimming with confidence, but the vicinity had fallen silent, and there was no sign of anything about to happen.

「Muu.....O, open!」

Paimon put both hands on the monolith again and shouted. But, again, there was no sign of anything happening.

「Could it be that you're mistaken on how to open it?」

「Sh, shut your mouth, virgin! This seal has Sora's sealing arts as its

origin. Although it was made to be stupidly solid due to the labyrinth's sealing equipment, if Sora's blood is used, it should be cut off with a snap!」

「Wh, why you little.....Wait, I guess the reason the seal is not coming undone really is because I'm not blood related with Sora.」

That would mean that my giving blood was completely useless. I kind of thought that the Hero power flowing in my blood would explode and become the condition for opening it up, but something like that didn't happen.

「.....You, what did you say just now.」

「Eh?」

When I turned my head from being called, Paimon had a facial expression that was pretty much saying 「Oi oi, you're joking, right?」.

「I guess the reason the seal isn't being undone because the First Generation Saint Minato Sora-san and I aren't blood related or anything—? is what I said.」

「Wha, wha, whaaaaattttt!?!」

Paimon made an amusing face that had become a blend of shock and despair and crumbled down, collapsing down to all fours.

「Y, you, are you not Sora's descendant!?!」

「To begin with, why did you think I was her descendant?」

「The black hair, the black pupils. There are some that possess either one of them, but one that possesses both of them originally should not be in this Reynbrook. Despite that.....Haa」

Paimon said that, but isn't that surprisingly not the case? There's Bernadette and Eri Trestoria that was in Lizwadia. And then, the Church's Pope-chan also should have had black hair and black pupils.

「.....First Generation Saint Vivianne Minato Sora Angelic-sama's blood, has been succeeded by His Eminence 『Mio』 who is the Pope of the Ulquiorra Religious Organization.」

「.....Bernadette?」

It wasn't the depressed Paimon but Bernadette that started talking to me.

「My household had been appointed the duty of protecting His Eminence the Pope for generations. Black hair and black pupils. The many generations of His Eminence the Pope has had those characteristics. In order to become their shadow, blood had been distributed from His Eminence the Pope to my household.」

So the reason why Bernadette's hair and pupils are black is because it was taken from First Generation-san's blood.....Then would that mean that Eri is somehow related to her?

「This would only be a technicality, but I also have inherited Saint-sama's blood.」

「Fumu.....I see, now that you mention it, it is not like you do not have the traces of it. Your hair is also glossy just like Sora's.」

Bernadette turned around and faced Paimon, and Paimon also looked at Bernadette. As if comparing her to her memories, Paimon stared at her.

「You, what is your name?」

「It's Bernadette.」

「.....Fumu. Bernadette, bring out your neck. If it is on the neck, the scar will not stand out after all.」

When Paimon said that, she grew bat wings and floated closer to Bernadette.

「If you do anything weird, I'll shoot you, got it?」

Reaching out to the collar of her clothes with her hand, Bernadette showed the nape of her neck. In the other hand, a Magic Gun was gripped.

「Kiki, high-spirited women are to my liking. Kaah!」

The sharp canines pierced into the nape of Bernadette's neck as if they

were sucked into it.

「Haa, ...Nn」

Paimon sipped her blood, and a long breath heavy with heat spilled out from Bernadette's mouth. Continuing to suck for about ten seconds, Paimon suddenly separated her mouth from the nape of Bernadette's neck.

「O, oi!」

The moment Paimon separated her mouth from her, Bernadette crumbled down from her knees. When I promptly stretched out my hand to support her, her breath was rough and her face was red as if she had fallen ill to a heavy cold.

「Kiki, it would seem that I sucked up a bit too much. Since she has become unable to stand on her own, you should be courteous, okay?」

「You said that you sucked too much.....Oi, are you alright, Bernadette?」

When I lightly shook Bernadette's body, while her body was convulsing, the red faced Bernadette looked at me.

「My body.....for some, reason.....it's, hot.....Nnn!」

.....Wh, what is this. Bernadette is kind of erotic, you know?

「I have heard that whenever a Vampire sucks blood, they raise the targeted prey's sexual arousal and makes them go into a state of sexual excitement. As for why you didn't go crazy, it might only work on females.」

Fiona forced her way in between Bernadette and me, turned towards Bernadette's eyes and brought her index finger close to them. When she did, strength was drawn out from Bernadette's body making her go like a puppet that had its strings cut, and all of Bernadette's body weight leaned on me.

「So you used Sleep Magic.」

「Since I casted it with suggestions piled on it, she should have entered a deep sleep.」

I could tell that the redness of her face that was completely red was being drawn back.

「Nn〜.....Haa.....This is it, this is it. This sweet flavor that makes garrulity difficult, Sora was also like this. Kiki, this time for sure, I shall be released from the seal.」

Expressing an expression of ecstasy from savoring Bernadette's blood, Paimon pushed both of her hands out to the monolith. And then, right when Paimon touched the monolith, the monolith started to move together with a thunderous roar.

「Kikikikikiki!! It is here! Finally, finally my seal is!」

As if it were a wall made from square building blocks stacked on top of each other and each of those building blocks were being taken away from the wall, the monolith gradually began to disappear.

And then, what we saw that was beyond that was.....a large black coffin that looked big enough for a single person to enter it lying there.

「Kiki, Kikiki!」

With the monolith wall having disappeared, when anything that could have separated her from the coffin disappeared, Paimon turned into the form of a bat and flew to the coffin.

「.....And so she turns her back on us, I guess.」

「If she does, I'll just use the Sacred Sword. Between you guys' lives and the labyrinth, I'm sorry to say, I have no intention of balancing them.」

When I took a step forward so as to give Kuon, who was gripping the handle of her short sword, some peace of mind, the turned-into-a-bat Paimon got down on top of the coffin at almost the exact same time.

Baan!

Vigorously, the coffin's lid sprang up, a flesh-colored arm that was beautiful to the point of being creepy extended out and grabbed the turned-into-a-bat Paimon.

And then, that arm crushed Paimon.

「.....Kiki, with this, I can finally move with my original body.」

The crushed Paimon turned into black smoke, and was sucked up by the blonde woman that appeared from the coffin as if she had crawled out.

「So, that, is your true form.」

「Indeed. For sure, this is my, the Vampire Princess Paimon's original form.」

Her four limbs that extended out from her black one piece and her body that had an unevenness to it was full of sex appeal that was enough to make it very tempting, and that face and figure were beautiful enough that not even hundreds of thousands of words of praise were enough to properly describe it.

It was an appearance that not only men, but even women would be fascinated by it. Having taken her adult form, Paimon had a voluptuous appearance that overshadowed even the Succubi that fascinated men with their beautiful looks and their “energy” techniques.

However, what my gaze captured and wouldn't let go of was, neither her breasts that surpassed Bernadette in size, nor was it the roundness of her vivacious butt.

「.....I'm surprised, your skin “isn't blue”, Vampire.」

That's right, it wasn't blue skin that was characteristic of the Mazoku, but was, though a bit more or less white, a skin-color that was like that of a human.

「Kiki, wha~t, it is nothing to be surprised about. I am a founding Vampire that is a hybrid of a Mazoku and a human. The color of my skin is fine either way.」

When she said that, Paimon turned her hand towards us and extended it out.

「I'll only tell you this as a point of reference but, that won't work a “second time”, you know?」

「Kiki, so, it would seem. I know not of what trick you used, but you have

developed a resistance before I knew it.」

The cheerfully smiling Paimon then snapped her fingers.

「『I am here.』」

「.....ツ！」

Paimon's shadow stretched out from under her feet, and the human form Leviathan and then the Beholder appeared from within that shadow.

「Capitulate and join me.」

In response to Paimon who had said that as if she were declaring her victory, I took one step forward and,

Soul Desire

「I refuse.」

Carrying the aurora sword in my hand, I made a proclamation of war.

Chapter 122 - The Emissary from the Sky

*

「Alt Flügel」

Light overflowed from the Sacred Sword that I held in my hand, and in the next moment, my body was dressed in a white armor that faintly shined.

Paimon opened her eyes wide from the white armor that told her that I was the Hero.

「Wha, wha-wha-wha-wha! Th, that appearance.....So you were not a lineage of the miko, but the 『Bearer』!!」

In comparison to Paimon who looked like she was astonished from the bottom of her heart, I was calm to the point that even I knew that I was calm.

「If you know about what it means for me to be the 『Bearer』, then don't try to fight me, got it? Even against a Duke, they wouldn't be match to even stop me when I'm in this form.」

Against me with the Sacred Sword being unleashed, the only one that would be able to oppose me was certainly the Demon Lord. Even if the Six Blade Generals were to be gathered, they would only be at the level of withstanding a single attack.

「Gu, gununu.....っ! I, I understand.」

Seeming like this was completely unexpected for her, sweat had risen to Paimon's forehead, and that certain type of charisma that she had a little while ago was blown off.

「To begin with, even if I were one of First Generation-san's descendants, why would you think of trying to make a human your subordinate?」

「Naturally, it was for the sake of world domination.」

When I asked that, Paimon smiled and declared that as if to say that was only natural.

「Both the sky and the earth, both people and Mazoku, even God, all of them will equally become my subordinates, and I shall reign over this world. Kikiki, how about it, sounds fun, does it not?」

They were words that sounded like a joke, but I don't think that the Paimon in question was saying that as a joke. She truly, was trying to do that.

「That's.....Yeah. It sounds like it would be a kind world.」

What had suddenly come to my mind was the appearance of the Demi-humans starting with the Elves. In the world that Paimon mentioned, it seemed like there wouldn't be any racial discrimination.

It was a world that I wasn't able to obtain even if I desired it, but if it's this Vampire Princess, wouldn't it be obtainable? is the idea that was born. But,

「Well, sorry but I won't become your subordinate.」

I should already be no longer needed as a Hero in this world. That is how I want it to be.

「Kiki, that is what I thought. Overlook me. That is my only request.」

「Don't subordinate humans with violence filled with malice. At that time if you do, I will become your enemy.」

「Kikiki, I suppose that means that we have come to an agreement.」

Saying that, Paimon extended out her hand towards me. She came seeking a handshake.

「Jeez.....」

While I was wryly smiling, when I extended my hand out to try and answer her handshake,

A dazzling light went through Paimon's body.

「Mu, oh, oh?」

「Your Excellency.....っ!?」

Paimon tilted her head as she was unable to grasp what had just

happened. The Leviathan that had broken into a run in order to try and save her master also had her body gone through by the light, and became unable to move about.

「This is....., Damn you, damn you damn you damn you damn you!! A lowly Apostle is.....ㄟ. So you are rioting against me despite knowing that I am the Great Demon Lord 『Makai Commander-in-Chief』 Belzebeaut's granddaughter, the one that leads an army of two hundred, 『Paimon』!!」

Paimon saw the thing that came “descending” from right overhead, and shouted curses as if she were vomiting them out.

Lured in by that, when I looked up, what was projected in my field of vision was an existence that was in a way more troublesome than the Mazoku and was neither human, a Mazoku, nor a spirit.

《I had thought that a dwarfish existence that controls an army of a mere two hundred had dared to show contempt for God who is both our Father and Mother.》[\[1\]](#)

Violently resounding in my head, it was an inhuman voice that was devoid of any emotion. The owner of this voice that felt oppressive despite that got down in front of Paimon and Leviathan who were stabbed and skewered on a pike of light.

「.....ㄟ, And yet another troublesome guy has appeared.」

Having three sets of wings for a total of six, it was an existence that, despite having an appearance that was similar to humans, had greatly deviated from humans.

It was an existence that, despite having the appearance of a beautiful woman, possessed a body of boorish armor like that of a robot.

An emissary from the sky, an existence also called the Heaven's Soldier War Maiden.

Its name is an 『Apostle』.

《O children of God, your choice is in err.》

Turning its back to Paimon's group, and turning to face us, the Apostle said that in a manner of speaking as if it were prosecuting a crime.

「In err?」

《The insolent utterance against God despite being a Mazoku. I will not let you say that you had missed hearing that.》

「That ‘even God will become her subordinate’ thing, right? That doesn’t really matter to me though? I am said to be the enemy of God after all.」

《So you show contempt for God despite being a child of God, O Bearer.》

The eyes of the Apostle became sharp. It was a voice that was devoid of the feeling of any emotion in it, but in fact, it was giving a bloodlust that was enough to make my skin tingle.

「What has God done for me. What will God do for me? Towards a God that only gazes at the hands that are extended and seeking salvation, I don’t feel any obligation or anything towards her. Tell her that if she wants me to worship her, then go do a bit of work!」



「And that’s what happened, you see?」

「H, ho, how could you do such a thinggggggg!!」

Hitting the table, Bernadette stood up while she raised her voice.

This place was Nordyord’s general public bar. Having escaped from the labyrinth, we waited for Bernadette to wake up, and gathered at this bar.

「To try and overlook the Vampire is.....w, well, I can understand seeing as how it’s you, Yashiro-san. However, there is no reason for you to fight with the Apostle-sama!」

Actually, that thing called the Apostle was what the Holy Ulquiorra Religious Organization worships, and was something like the religious organization’s symbol.

It technically is an angel after all.

「No, but, you see? Since the they were totally motivated to fight and all.....」

「There was no way Apostle-sama was going to keep silent while

someone was making a fool of God-sama! Yashiro-san, please put in a bit more effort to try and end things peacefully!」

So as to keep on talking, Bernadette shouted, then she laid her head on the table.

Well, in any case, the strange typhoon had vanished, and we were able to escape the labyrinth safely. Can't we just leave it at that, Bernadette?

「Kikiki. The bravery of my master had been displayed, lineage of the miko.」

「You coming along is the biggest problem!」

A new cause of conflict is now coming along though.

Translator's Notes:

[1] I'm not sure if I translated this line correctly. Original: 二百の軍団を操る程度の矮小なる存在が、良くも我らが父にして母なる神を貶められると思えたものだ

Chapter 123 - The Preceding Hero and the Heretic Mazoku

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「.....To begin with, what do you mean by master? Why are you, a Mazoku, becoming Yashiro-san's familiar?」

Maybe because she had drank some water and calmed down, Bernadette asked that with a disinterested tone.

Ah—, so she really did ask about that.

「Actually, how could you tell that she was familiar?」

Paimon and I are now in a master and servant relationship through the use of a familiar contract.

「The unpleasant feelings characteristic of Mazoku has disappeared. Rather, it's a strange feeling like there is another Yashiro-san.....I somehow can't calm down.」

Another one of me? What does that mean?

「A familiar is something like half of your body. A presence that should be called a reverberation of its master dwells within the familiar. It is something like a side effect due to the contract.」

Fiona, whose dark eyes had become lighter since the time we first reunited, brought her teacup up to her mouth.

「Kiki, the reason why I have become your servant, is it.」

The blonde, little girl formed Paimon smiled with a grin.

「If I had to say it in one sentence, then it was because you had saved me from the evil hand of the Apostle, I suppose?」

「As if a Mazoku like you could say something like evil hand.」

Incidentally, the reason why Paimon had become smaller is because it seems it was for the sake of restraining her Maryoku consumption. Normally, a familiar was an existence that would receive Maryoku from

its master, but seeing as how I don't have any Maryoku, I am unable to supply her with Maryoku.

「I also had never thought that you would be the 『Bearer』. I had laid out my maximum amount of precautions, and just when I had thought I had gained some breathing room, that happened. Seriously, it is a bit strange for me, a Mazoku, to say this but you are a sly fellow.」

「To begin with, why did that Apostle suddenly appear anyway? It shouldn't be all that simple for that thing to make a descent.」

I also had seen an Apostle one before, but it didn't seem like it was a guy that could appear so easily. Rather, I got the impression that it tried to keep its distance from humans.

「It is said that Apostle-sama appears once every several hundred years. Even in the history books, it has only appeared twice.」

For what reason would those half-hikikomori guys suddenly appear.

「Didn't it appear because God-sama was being denounced?」

「I did stuff like that three years ago. Though, it was thanks to that that I was called God's enemy.」

「That isn't something you should say like it's a funny story!」

When I responded to Kuon's question, I was scolded by Bernadette. Muu, recently, Bernadette has become hard to handle.

「.....Not obeying the Demon Lord despite being a Mazoku, and trying to include the First Generation Saint as one of her subordinates, couldn't it be because she was a heretic.」

Little by little, Fiona muttered that. That muttering had remained in my ears for quite a while.

「A heretic, is it.....」

「In this world, there are established rules that exist and are like instincts of life.」

Kachari Putting down the teacup, Fiona rearranged her legs and

continued.

「People fear Mazoku and harbor hatred and animosity for them, and Mazoku scorn humans like they were harmful insects and feel disgust towards them. The Demon Lord manifested for the sake of exterminating humans, and the Hero is created as the countermeasure for the Demon Lord. And then, there is one more thing. The existences that come under the Mazoku, they all prostrate before the existence known as the Demon Lord. Vampire Princess Paimon, for you who are of mixed blood of humans and Mazoku, do you fall under any of these?」

As if to ascertain her answer, Fiona sharpened the glint in her eyes, and asked that.

「Nay. The existence known as myself is not an existence that is confined to such rules.」

「I thought so.」

「I see.....The end goal of the Demon Lord is the extermination of humans.....Paimon's end goal is domination of this world.....More than not receiving the influence of the Demon Lord, Paimon wouldn't be instructed by anyone, and would be able to provoke a fight against God.」

If asked, 'if the Demon Lord destroyed the humans, would he provoke a fight with God afterwards?', it would probably be a no.

That guy exists for the sake of killing people. Nothing more and nothing less.

Even for me who is the Hero, although I don't like him, if asked 'would you overthrow God?', it would probably be a no.

There was no need to defeat him. As long as I am not driven to the need to defeat him, I wouldn't challenge God.

However, for Paimon, overthrowing God was one of her goals. By taking the proper steps, someday, she would invariably challenge God. All for the sake of making both humans and Mazoku, even God her own subordinates.

As long as that was an inevitability, the Apostles would attack for the sake of making Paimon a dead person.

「So they were keeping surveillance on her.....So that they could kill Paimon the moment the seal was undone.」

「So, it would seem. Since olden times, they had treated me as their enemy after all.」

Drinking up the tomato juice that was poured into a cup, Paimon said that sounding like she had no motivation.

「.....P, please wait a moment. So as long as this Mazoku is here, there will be times where we will fight with Apostle-sama, is that what this means?」

Having turned pale, Bernadette looked at Paimon while her mouth was twitching. When she did, Paimon made a complacent smile and nodded.

「Indeed, with this, Yashiro-san will be treated more and more as the enemy of God. But rather than that, the point of allowing this Vampire to travel together with us is completely out of the question.....」

「Now, now, don't say that. Like they say, just as it is reassuring to have a companion when travelling, it is important for us to care for each other as we pass through this life. There's also the saying of 'even a meeting by chance is preordained', right?」

「Muu.....It's starting to feel like I've become the bad guy. Or rather, you're awfully supportive of that Vampire coming along, Yashiro-san. Even though you didn't say anything like that when I tried to come along.」

Bernadette looked displeased, going Bu-
.....A bit, it was for only just a bit, but I thought that that was cute dammit.

「No, no, it wasn't like that, right?」

「At the time we were departing from Lizwadia, I'm sure that you said things like being troubled.」

Ah—, come to think of it, I did say something like that. It's somewhat nostalgic.

「Fufu.....What is this, lineage of the miko, jealousy? Kiki, a woman's jealousy is quite unsightly, you know?」

Paimon left her seat, and laughed as if to stir something up. Getting hooked on that, Bernadette's mood quickly went bad.

「How about I send you to hell in place of Apostle-sama?」

Still sitting in her chair, Bernadette stretched her hand out to the slit of her skirt and grabbed her Magic Gun. While receiving the sharp look that Bernadette had turned towards her, Paimon approached me without removing her smile.

「Kiki, you are still quite green.....」

「Oh」

Paimon got on my lap as I was sitting in my chair, and sat there leaning all of her weight on me.

And then——

「Is that not right, my master.」

Turning into her adult form on top of my lap, Paimon whispered to me with a voice that sounded like a spoilt child while gently brushing my cheek!!

「Uhihihi! Of, of course you're right!」

「.....I see, so you're using seductive techniques. It would be a critical hit if used on Yashiro-san.」

Shoot.

Chapter 124 - The Magic Sword and the Black Katana

*

「Oh—, they're going at it, they're going at it. Kept ya waiting, Black Hair.」

When I sipped from my glass of water even while looks of scorn were being turned towards me from Bernadette and Fiona so as to pretend to not notice them and let it pass, since I was called out to from behind, I turned around, and when I did, there was Angelica leading the tall lanky guy and the shorty.

「By kept us waiting, you mean.....Ahh, we were supposed to go see the airship, weren't we.」

「Yeah. That was the compensation for getting the Magic Stone after all.」

「Though we did have quite the detour. Well, since we were able to obtain a Magic Stone that had a size that not even the army uses thanks to that, it was all that we could have asked for.」

Saying that, Angelica gazed at the Magic Stone that had the size of a softball that she held in her hand with an expression of ecstasy.

「Is it going to be alright with it being that size?」

「Kaa~, this is why I can't stand complete amateurs!」

Angelica shouted out as if to completely make fun of Kuon's words. Oi oi, don't stir her up. She's not an opponent that you can win against even if you all banded together against her.

Look, her hand is on the short sword hanging on her waist.....

「A Magic Stone is clump of Maryoku had was condensed to the point that the Maryoku materialized. Under normal circumstances, only stones the size of a pebble would be produced.」

「Ahh, now I get it. I finally get the reason why these guys were making

a racket and saying something about billionaires.」

As expected of Fiona. Explanations are her forte.

「Something like Magic Stones don't really come in contact with everyday life after all. Though, if you have something to do with magic, then you would come into contact with it often.....」

「I am a fist fighter after all.」

Incidentally, other than being collected at mines, Magic Stones can also come from the inside of the bodies of monsters. They come from Golems of course, but Magic Stones can also be collected from opponents that make frequent use of magic.

「Yeah—, that's how it is. Black Hair, you did say that you wanted to try tampering with the airship's engine, but could you do that as soon as possible.」

「? Well, I don't really mind having you wanting to show it to me immediately but.....What's wrong? Do you have some rushed business or something?」

「Well, ya see, this is the weak point of an airship equipped with a new engine. It takes a bit of time from the engine's startin' up until it's able to fly. Though, after it starts flying once, it flies like no other.」

I see, that certainly is a weak point. To be unable to be immediately used at the necessary time would lead to all sorts of faults. That would also be a huge demerit for the airships used for national defense.

But still, despite having that weak point, the advantage of being able to fly anywhere is huge. Way too huge.

「Let's see.....I was thinking of heading over to Ahato's place after this, so I guess I can drop in after I'm finished with that.」

Magic Sword Ravenbrand is technically something that was borrowed, so I need to return it. Now that my body has gone back to how it was before, it's unfortunate but, there's no longer any reason to keep borrowing it.

「Gotcha. In that case, we'll just stay in this bar, so call out ta us once yer all done.」

「「Call out ta us.」」

After saying that, Angelica's group sat down in the chairs of a nearby table, called an employee, and asked for some ale.

「Come to think of it, Aniki, what are you going to do with that Magic Sword?」

「Nn, it doesn't matter what I do, since I borrowed it from Ahato, I have to return it.」

When I responded like that while lightly touched the handle of the sword that hung on my waist, the Magic Sword shook, going *bururu*.

「Sorry ta tell ya this, youngster, but I'm gonna keep on bein' yer sword.」

「Ha? No, what are you saying?」

「In the time of a little less than a thousand years since the last 『Bearer』 relinquished me, a swordsman able ta handle hadn't appeared even once! Though it pisses me off that I have ta be used by a dude, as long as yer able ta perfectly handle me, I have no other complaints. If ya get that, then shut up and keep me on yer waist.」

「No, like I said, it isn't a matter of what you want to do, the problem is Ahato, right?」



「I don't mind, you know?」

We visited Ahato's store in Nordyord. When I promptly asked about the matter with Ravenbrand, Ahato nodded without any sign of hesitation.

「So you're fine with it!」

When I was surprised by her unexpected words, the Magic Sword laughed with a Fufun.

「With this, it's decided.」

「Nn—.....Well, for me, since it's a sword that I don't need to worry about

breaking, it actually makes me quite happy but.....Is this really alright?」

「Yeah. Magic Sword 『Ravenbrand』 is a sword my ancestor forged. Though there is an index to go through, it isn't my sword after all.」

Something like an ancestor's sword.....Isn't that usually called an heirloom or something?

「Besides.....The sword itself made that choice. I want to respect that.」

「.....I understand. Magic Sword 『Ravenbrand』, I have certainly been entrusted with it.」

When I answered like that, Ahato smiled looking delighted.

「Still, this is an amazing amount of weapons.....」

「Ahaha.....S, sorry about that. They couldn't all be held in the warehouse.」

Bernadette looked at the great deal of weapons that were placed around the store and was astonished.

The inside of Ahato's store had weapons that were simply bundled together with cords placed around and had made mountains of them. It kind of made me think, was this kind of clutter place something common among blacksmiths?

「Although they're placed around at random, they're all good weapons, you see.....Nn?」

When I looked at the weapons that were placed on the floor and the weapons that were put up on display, there was suddenly something that caught my attention.

「Oi oi, this is.....」

What was adorned in a display case was, a single sword. Maybe because of the iron that was used, the sword blade was black, and dully shined when bathed in the light.

But there was a reason more important than any of that as to why it caught my attention.

.....It was—

「Ah, that is something that I forged when I was training in an eastern country and is a sword called a 『katana』.」

That's right, it had a form like that of a Japanese sword.....No, it was exactly a Japanese sword.

There were no ripples on the sword blade that was black as if it were painted out with charcoal, and it dully shined when bathed in the light.

「Heeh~, it's the splitting image of my short sword.」

「That's.....Wakoku's wakizashi, isn't it.」

Ahato reacted to Kuon's words and her act of drawing her short sword from its scabbard.

「To think that I would see a Japanese sword in another world.....Hey, can I try holding it?」

「I don't mind. However, since the blade is quite sharp, please do be careful in handling it.」

Getting Ahato's permission, I raised up the black sword bladed Japanese sword.

「.....Its shape is good and all, but I feel uneasy just from holding it.」

When I held it with both hands and took a stance, I couldn't help but worry about the thinness of the sword blade and its weight.

It felt like it would break just from me swinging it with all my might.

「Aniki, can I hold it next?」

「Nn, here.」

When I placed it down on the rack, Kuon then raised the katana.

「.....Hee.....I see.」

Within the confined room, Kuon raised the katana overhead. Maybe because she was satisfied with that one action, Kuon put the katana back on the rack.

「I want this. How much would you sell it for?」

Kuon delightfully smiled with a broad grin.

Although Ahato was flustered from that sudden development, she pondered.

「Erm.....Since it is a sword that turned out well in its trial, how does 200,000 f sound?」

「I'll take it.」

Taking out a bag packed with coins from her pocket, Kuon tossed that over to Ahato.

What a swift decision. Did she like that black katana that much.....?

「You see, at the time that I wielded it, there wasn't any sense of discomfort.」

「Sense of discomfort? What do you mean by that?」

What Kuon had been using up until now was the short sword that she said was a memento of her mother.

Between this black katana and her short sword, the length and center of gravity were greatly different. With that kind of significance, there should be nothing but feelings of discomfort.

「The sense of discomfort that not even my memento short sword could wipe away, it all disappeared the moment I wielded this sword.....This 『katana』. Probably, my school.....My mother's techniques, I think that it was originally a school that used this.」

If she does techniques that are originally done with a katana using a short sword, then of course there would be nothing but a sense of discomfort. Come to think of it, her father did say that Kuon's mother originated from an eastern country.

「.....Okay, I have certainly received exactly 200,000 f. As a service, it also comes with its own dedicated belt.」

「Oh, that's really appreciated. Hey, does this guy have an inscription?」

When she sheathed the katana into its black scabbard, Kuon asked that, sounding like she just remembered.

「Since it had received the name of 『Kurogane』 from my mentor at the time, that name was inscribed.」

Kuon said 「I like it」 and gave a smile that show her teeth to the black katana 『Kurogane』.

Chapter 125 - The Preceding Hero and the Airship

*

Above the calm ocean that was acting the complete opposite of when we first came here, that thing that looked like a ship was floating in the air.

The reason why I say “looked like” is because although it resembled a ship, there was a huge difference between their silhouettes.

There were propellers of various sizes attached all over the ship, its mast was short when compared to the ones on a boat, and then, as if it were tied together with that mast, there was something like a long and narrow balloon adhered to it.....It had that kind of weird shape.

「This is our ship, 『The Black Rose』!」

I'm sorry to Angelica who had spread out both hands and introduced it with pride, but my consciousness was focused on the airship that had a silhouette that I had never seen before.

「What is.....this.....That balloon and those the propellers that you went and put right there.....It can't be, you made an airship with such an original method.....っ!」

「Uwah.....You're making an extremely delighted looking face, Yashiro-san.」

「I have no idea what is so good about it.」

I honestly can't hear what Bernadette and Fiona are saying.

Uwah! Uwaaah! Amazing, this thing is just amazing! Isn't this an extremely rational build compared to the airship until now that floated due to wind-propriety stones that were similar to Magic Stones?

The airships up until now were able to float from the wind produced by the wind stone which is sent from sail to sail and is received by the wings that were placed on it.

Opposed to that, this new airship floats with the thing that looks like a

balloon, and only moves the large propellers that are affixed to both flanks of the ship to change its course.

「It looks like you've taken a liking to it.」

「Yeah. Enough to make me want to try disassembling it from A to Z.」

「D, don't, okay?」

Tsk, I guess it really was impossible.

「Hey, hey, Angelica, hurry up and show us what it's like on board.」

「Fufun, so it's only at times like this that ya act like a brat appropriate for yer age. Well then, let's start the "Hero"-sama troupe's on-board tour.」

Angelica was boldly smiling, but she slipped on the gangway that led up to the deck and fell into the ocean.



「Hou, so this is.....I see, so the Magic Stone doesn't only work as the propellers' power but also takes the wind stone's role.」

「You really know yer stuff, don't cha, Black Hair.」

「I only know it well if we're just talking about it. As for how to moves exactly is.....No, what is this.....Gears? So that's it, increasing the rotation to the Magic Stone.....」

「Nee-san only gave the ok for looking at it, you know? Ya can't go disassembling it, got it?」

「I know that.」

While Yuu, the tall and lanky guy and the shorty were doing an airship lecture, Bernadette and the others, the female group, surrounded a round table in the captain's cabin and were having a frank tea time.

「These are tea leaves that don't have a very good aroma.」

「I suppose this is where one would say that this is somewhat better than muddy water.」

「Why do you serve black tea even though you're a pirate?」

「She probably wants to put on airs even though she doesn't have a fragment of elegance.」

「You girls really are detestable guests.」

When she placed down the cups while giving a strained smile from being judged by all of them, Angelica sat down in a chair, looked around at the four of them, and breathed a sigh.

「I wonder if Black Hair.....No, if Hero-sama wants to build a harem or something.」

Both Bernadette and Fiona choked from the words that Angelica muttered while sounding amazed.

「Wh, what do you mean by a harem!」

「Having a flower in both hands, no, a flower in all four directions. Isn't it only natural to have suspicions of that?」

Angelica gave a grin and answered Bernadette who stood up with her face all red.

「.....Why am I counted in as well?」

「Oya, was I wrong?」

With a facial expression that seemed like she was surprised from the bottom of her heart, but looked like she was resisting her want to let her mouth loosen up and smile, Angelica sipped her black tea.

「Wait.....Why do you know that Yashiro-san is the Hero.....」

「Kiki, Master had said it, had he not. That he manifested that appearance when he had confronted me, and that he had kicked about the apostle that appeared. Kikiki, that certainly was a sight to see, for the apostle to be treated like a nobody.」

Saying “that's right”, Bernadette sat down while looking like she was greatly perplexed.

「By harem, am I also included?」

「Kiki, it is my master we are talking about. It is enough to keep your fidelity to him.」

「I see, then that means I'm his lover-cum-disciple.」

「L, lover is just too graphic.」

While Bernadette and the others were talking, Fiona sipped a mouthful of black tea, and when she drank it down, she left Angelica out and turned her gaze at the other three.

「Just how far do you girls plan on going along with Yuu?」

The boisterous three instantly became quiet from Fiona's one line.

「That's.....What do you mean by that?」

「.....I'm sure that Yuu will continue traveling even after this. A journey to anywhere, with no determined end.」

Putting in a moments pause, Fiona continued.

「It will be harsh to go along with that. Beside Yuu, "she" is still there.」

Strength filled up in Bernadette's hands.

「That's why, you girls will have to decide where the end will be yourselves. I'll ask you once again, got it? How far will you go along with him?」

Fiona's sharp, strongly shining eyes seized the three.

「.....I will become strong. I want to become even stronger by following Yashiro-aniki.」

The first one to answer was Kuon.

Holding the black katana 『Kurogane』 that was sheathed in its scabbard as if she were embracing it and putting one foot on her chair, Kuon looked up at the ceiling of the room.

「Hearing of Aniki's legends of bravery, I thought of wanting to become stronger.」

Being the strongest and unrivaled. The heroic tale of a boy that mowed

down the enemies that stood in his way, and simply ran through his own path in earnest.

「I don't know how far I'll be able to go. But, I want to try going as far as I can.」

As if confirming it with herself, Kuon muttered that, and nodded.

「I will go until the Maryoku I lost is recovered, I suppose. And then, after that, I shall take the world.」

While crunching on one of the cookies that was placed on the table with her back teeth, Paimon smiled.

「.....I」(Bernadette)

Eyes that had kept a strong will hidden in them, turned towards Fiona.

Chapter 126 - Yuu and Fiona

*

Including our capturing of the labyrinth, our stay in Nordyord has already passed ten days.

It was just went we had settled the abnormal weather and thought that it was about time to make our departure.

「You're sayin' that ya can't go ta Galarie!? Explain ta me why not!!」

Kuon's angry voice resounded in the port. Being on the receiving end of that, the captain of the merchant ship that we came here on had his body tremble.

「I, I'm sorry, ojou. But, startin' with things related ta provisions, we sold a pretty good amount o' our cargo on this island, so we can't possibly jus' go ta Galarie, ya see.」

「Mu.....Well, tha' can't be helped. At times where the cargo might go bad, doin' tha' is one of the tacit rules of a sailor.」

However, if that's the case, then that would mean that we would have to go back to Be Io once and then head to Galarie after that. We looks like we won't be able to make it to the Magic Clad Martial Arts Demonstration in terms of time.

「Can't we just get on board another ship?」

Looking around at the vicinity, although it has diminished from when we first came here, there were still several ships that could be seen. Getting one of them to let us on board was Bernadette's idea, but the captain of the merchant ship looked sullen from that proposal.

「There ain't any guys tha' 're goin' directly ta Galarie among the remainin' ships. The guys goin' ta Galarie immediately left the moment the storm cleared up.」

「So there's nothing more we can do, huh.」

In the middle of that resigned mood that was hanging in the air, a

cheerful voice that could be considered as noisy reached our ears.

「Oya oya, it looks like yer in a bit of trouble, Black Hair!」

Shouting with a loud voice that didn't lose to the sound of the waves, it was Angelica with the tall lanky guy and the shorty on standby behind her.

「What do you want, Three Stooges. Sorry but right now, we don't have the time to deal with you guys.」

「That's so cold, Black Hair. We're close enough to have conquered that labyrinth together, aren't we.」

I replied sounding a bit ill-tempered, but, seeming to be in a good enough mood to not mind that, Angelica came closer while humming a tune.

「If you want.....I wouldn't mind lettin' ya board our ship, ya know?」

Angelica smiled with a grin. If she's saying that she'll let us board the airship, then that's something we'd really appreciate but.....no matter how I look at it, I can't see that as being out of good will. She'll probably put out some bargaining point.

「.....What are the conditions?」

「It helps that ya catch on quick. How does an air trip goin' to Galarie at 20,000 f per person sound?」

20,000.....,

Neither expensive nor cheap, it feels like a suitable price, I guess? No, it would be fine if it were a boat, but this is a trip on an airship.

If she's taking passengers, it would be fine to make a bit more profit.

「And? Are you alright with only that?」

That's right. Even if they are rotten, these guys are pirates. There's no way it would end with such a fair price.

As proof of that, when I asked that, Angelica smiled with a grin.

「It really helps that you're so sensitive. 」

Angelica undid a button of her blouse, and took something out from her cleavage.

Oh, it was a black bra.

「Geass Paper (paper of contract). I'll have you sign on this.」

That was a scroll of parchment.。

「A Geass Paper.....It's amazing that you were able to get your hands on one of those.」

Geass Paper. Just as the name says, it's a magic item that is related to contracts, activates when both parties making the contract come to an agreement, and has a simple ability of making them comply to the contract written on that page.

However, this Geass Paper is powerful to the point of being nasty.

First, the moment the contract is made, this parchment is bestowed with the abilities of being magic-proof and curse-proof.

It can't be destroyed with half-hearted magic, and it won't receive a reduction of its effect through a curse.

And then, right when one thing that they were able to destroy it, next, a penalty directed towards the contracted party would be activated.

There are few magic items that possessed legal force that would go this far, and it was particularly treated as a priceless treasure by those that were involved in politics.

Now then, this magic item, probably because of the strength of that ability, its price was also high.

Not to be thought of as just a simple piece of parchment, it's a precious item where a market value of several hundred thousand f would be trivial.

「When we sold the items that we gathered in Nordyord, it came out to be a splendid amount of money.」

So it's the "if you gather dust" thing, huh.

「Eh~, let's see?.....」『In the middle of embarkment, hostile actions towards Angelica Fon Bolteny are prohibited. In the event battle mobilization occurs in the middle of embarkment, Angelica Fon Bolteny

is to be safeguarded and hostile enemies must be attacked.』?.....What the heck is this?」

Since she brought out a strong magic item like the Geass Paper, I thought that an unreasonable demand like 『Become her slave』 would come, but compared to my expectations, they were considerably docile demands.

「It's insurance for just in case. We're Sky Pirates, so we have a lot of enemies.」

「Well, I can understand that, but that's not really enough of a reason to make use of a Geass Paper.....」

Even though we would normally assist if it were just that much.....Just as I was about to say that, I noticed Angelica sweating on her forehead.

「.....Tell it to me honestly, what are you making me fight against?」

When I asked that while severely feeling a bad premonition, maybe because there was something, Angelica turned her eyes away from me, and looked up in the direction of the day after tomorrow.

「.....L, like a Dragoon (Dragon Knight)?」

「A Dragoon, you, that's totally the army!」

Dragoon. Just as its name implies, it's a knight that has a dragon as their partner.

Riding dragons and flying through the sky, they are pioneers of the sky. Although the absolute number of them is small, excluding a portion of countries, Dragoons are deployed by a majority of the countries.

And that's how it should be. A dragon that is able to fly the skies and make powerful breath attacks would become a huge war potential when there is a good number of them.

「It, it's not like a Dragoon will definitely appear or anything. It's just.」

「「It's because we were attacked by a Dragoon that we had to do an emergency landing here, right, Nee-san!」」

「You idiots! I told you guys to call me Captain!」

While looking at Angelica who was yelling at the shorty and the tall lanky guy, I breathed out a sigh.

「It's not like we'll absolutely have to fight with them, right?」

「Of course not. But there is always the chance of it happening, right?」

「Then I'm fine with just helping in scattering them away.」

「Well, I guess we've come to an agreement with that.」

Angelica rolled up the Geass Paper and put it away in her cleavage. Why in the cleavage? is probably something that is better off not asked.

「When can the airship take off?」

「It's possible for 『The Black Rose』 to depart at any time. If ya don't have any important plans, then hurry up and get on board.」

There was no luggage that we would have trouble carrying, and moreover, since most of our luggage was being carried on Silber's back, it was possible to embark immediately.

Seeing as how we already gave our salutations to Ahato, there was nothing else to do on this island.

「Then we'll gratefully get on board.」

「Yuu.」

When I said that and was about to walk to a certain part of the airship, Fiona called me to a stop.

「Well then, this is where we part.」

Sounding somewhat lonely, Fiona began to talk.

「Eh.....Fiona, you're not coming along?」

「Just when did I say that I would be accompanying you in your travels.」

Fiona said that sounding amazed. Well, I guess that's how it would be. Fiona was investigating the historic ruins on this island long before we came here after all.

「.....」

「.....」

Without saying a word to each other, a silent pause was made. The one to break that silence was Fiona.

「It would have been great if this were a world without both the Demon Lord and the Hero.」

I put up a hand and stopped Fiona who started again saying “If it were”.

「I have no regrets about that journey we had three years ago. Even for its conclusion, ...right now, I don't regret it. I don't even want to regret it.」

「.....」

「Though I do think that I'll get dragged into battles, even so, I'll walk it at my own pace. I don't like being dragged around.」

I think I heard it somewhere before. Great power is accompanied by great responsibility or something.

The responsibility that Fiona talked about over and over was probably about that.

If you have the power to save someone, if you have the power to save the world, that's what she said.

However—

「Besides, the Hero is an existence only meant to defeat the Demon Lord. Anything other than that should be dealt with somehow on your own. That's what I think a Hero is.」

The Hero isn't a mediator. No matter how much they do their best, in the end, it's just an existence meant to defeat the Demon Lord.

「I see. So my warnings were unnecessary.」

I replied to Fiona who smiled as if deriding herself.

「No, it became a guideline. Sorry about that.」

Look at the world.....for such an obscure objective for travelling, I was able to make a core with Fiona's words.....That's how I feel.

「What is with that.....」

I made Fiona take up something like a thankless role.
But, I have no intentions of saving someone as a 『Hero』.

The Hero is an existence that defeats the Demon Lord. If it separates from that, they can't be called a Hero. I have no intentions of becoming something like a messiah.

「Well then, see ya.」

「.....Yes. See you.」

Saying that, we parted with Fiona and headed towards the airship.

Chapter 127 - The Sky is Blue

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「Now then, set sail!」

The airship, the Black Rose, was floating very close to the surface of the sea. The anchor was unloaded and was making it stay, and if the anchor were to be raised, it would start to float off as it was.

「Black Hair, raise the anchor!」

Angelica shouted while moving the helm that was on the deck of the ship.

「Aye aye, toh.」

With that yell, the tall lanky guy and the shorty rolled up the anchor's chain, and I pulled it up and fixated it on the airship.

When I did, *fuwah*, together with a floating sensation peculiar to airships, the airship floated up.

「Wawah, we're floating up! We're floating up, Yashiro-san!」

「The above balloon-looking thing is carrying out the duty of being an air sac. Though the floating power is small since it's being filled with air and wind instead of gas.」

「Heeh—.....」

There's no mistake that 80% of the people that display their knowledge are a race that get delighted when these words of admiration are leaked out.

At the very least, I am that way.

「Mu? Come to think of it, Kuon isn't here. Where did she go?」

I looked around the vicinity thinking that I would try and teach this to Kuon as well, but I didn't see Kuon's figure. Since we should be embarking right now, did she go inside the ship?

「Aniki——!!」

「Kuon? Hey, what are you doing in a place like that!」

When I looked up following Kuon's voice, Kuon was just coming down from the top of the airship's air sac.

「Weell, the sea breeze just felt so good, ya see. That's not it, this isn't the time for that, Yashiro-aniki!」

Saying that, Kuon jumped onto the prow of the ship, and pointed in the 11 o'clock direction looking from the front of the ship.

「They're still pretty distant, but Dragoons are coming!」

Both of her ears erect, and the fur of her tail standing on end, Kuon shouted.

When I looked in the direction that Kuon pointed to, ...Certainly, I could see several grain-looking but small figures. Those are probably the Dragoons.

「Did you say Dragoons!? F, full speed ahead! We're running away—!!」

「Nowah! They're still quite a distance away, don't panic!」

My posture was broken due to the sudden acceleration and the sudden raising, but I gripped the deck's hand railing and supported myself.

「Wawah!?!」

「Bernadette!」

Not having any support, I extended my arm out to Bernadette whose posture was broken and caught her in my arms.

「ㄗ, Th, thank you very much.」

「Don't worry about it. Jeez, just how much of a trauma are they for her.」

I wanted for at least the departure to proceed calmly, but I guess it won't go that smoothly.

「Kiki, this is quite a pleasant setting sail, isn't it, my master.」

While making a snickering laugh, Paimon appeared from within my shadow.

The loli state Paimon was holding an opened black parasol.

「With our start being this flashy, it looks like the journey is going to be pretty noisy.」

「Kiki. It is good to see that it does not seem like it will be tedious, is it not.」

Saying that, Paimon smiled. Why you little, thinking that it's just somebody else's problem.

「But, Yashiro-san, unexpectedly different from his character, prefers quiet journeys.」

「Bernadette, just now, did you inadvertently spoke ill of me? You spoke ill of me, didn't you?」

「Fufu, I did not speak ill of you at all!」

Smiling with a grin, Bernadette separated from my hand.

「.....Well, I guess this is fine every once in a while.」

I didn't hate things being noisy from the start.

「Aniki! It looks like they've noticed us! They're headed this way!」

「Come on, come on! What're ya doin', Black Hair! It's your time to shine!」

「Like I said, they're still completely in the distance!」

Noisily, we started our journey on the sky route.

「.....We'll be going. Fiona.」

Turing towards the direction of a comrade in arms that I once fought together with, I muttered to myself.



Fiona was looking up at the sky.

The sky was blue and cleared up to the point that it was hard to believe that there was bad weather just a few days ago.
An airship was flying through that sky.

In that deep blue sky, it was flying off.

Did she want to accompany Yuu? Nay, there were already new companions beside him.

「『Want to be by his side』.....huh.」

What she remembered was the words of the black haired nun. The woman that said that with strong eyes.

She recalled that three years ago, among the members of the troupe that Yuu started off with, Olivia was the only one that said that she didn't want to stand up lined beside him, but wanted to support him.

Fiona stretched out her hand towards the airship that was steadily going further off into the distance, then lowered her arm.

「Take care, Yuu. Do your best going down your regretless path.」

Towards the comrade in arms she had once fought together with, towards the boy that she once held fleeting feelings for, Fiona muttered to herself.



Free City Galarie.

Referred to as the Metropolis of Water, that town that was erected on the sea was displaying a prosperity to the point that people were overflowing on the days before the martial arts tournament that was held once a year.

Food carts were lined up on the streets, ferryboats were coming and going on the canals, and even now, ships with tourists and merchants riding on them were arriving at the ports.

However, right now, the eyes of the tourists that were enjoying such a festival were all turned towards the sky.

「Incredible.....It's a large airship!」

There was a shadow that was big enough to completely cover the fields of vision that were turned towards the sky.

It took a moment of time before they could understand that it was an airship.

「Wh, where is the ship from?」

「That crest of three swords and a wing.....It's Leezelion's airship!!」

Seeing the crest that was printed on the air sac and flags, someone shouted out.

「So that's Leezelion's newest large warship 『Queen Sylvia』!!」

It was an airship that made it feasible to fly even outside of the established Sky Space Region through the use of new technology. With that latest technology, the country that owned the only airship up until now brought together the shipbuilding techniques that had been piled up and made that completed airship.

The 『Queen Sylvia』.

「.....To have my own name attached to a ship, this is quite embarrassing.」

On the bridge of the large airship 『Queen Sylvia』, a silver haired young lady was making a small smile as if out of self-derision.

「For all of us present, flying through the sky together with your Majesty's name is our greatest honor.」

A middle-aged man wearing a military cap low over his eyes reverentially expressed his gratitude to the young lady.

「I see.....I guess it is fine if you all are pleased with it.」

Wearing a sky-blue dress, the young lady turned her emerald eyes from the middle-aged man to the young man standing next to him.

「Leo, circulate several of your subordinates to the airship's escort. You alone are enough for my protection.」

「At your will.....」

When she saw the young man place his hand on his chest and nod, the young lady once again turned her gaze forward.

A broad blue without a single cloud.

The young lady.....Sylvia Loto Sheriotto Leezelion looked at the sky that could be seen from that bridge and breathed out a small sigh.

「Even though my heart is so cloudy.....How could it be such a detestable sky-blue color.」

The sky was blue to its furthest reaches.



There were ashen eyes looking up at the sky that didn't have a single cloud.

Purpose could not be felt within those eyes, however, they weren't eyes that had lost sight of the future or had lost their heat and light and had become muddily disconnected.

They were like the eyes of an innocent child, as if they had a light tinged with a pure light.

It couldn't be told if she just found the sky to be something rare, or if she had just turned her eyes towards some passing birds.

However, those eyes showed no sign of ceasing to look at the sky, and she continued to look up and stare at the sky without moving.

「Eru? Is something wrong?」

Being called out to, the owner of those ashen eyes slowly turned their head.

「The sky.....」

The one called Eru was an ashen little girl. A little girl whose hair, eyes, even clothes were a single ashen color.

Although her skin certainly wasn't an ashen color, she was a single ashen color to the point of making one feel like even the atmosphere around her felt ashen.

「The sky huh.....」

A young boy lined up next to Eru. Receiving the sea breeze, that black hair of his fluttered.

「It's been a while since I've taken a proper look at the sky.」

There were few times where he could rest his spirit, and could only look forward instead of upwards.

The young boy made a wry smile.

「.....」

The ashen little girl looked up at the sky.
As if, there was something beyond it.

「『Bearer』」

The little girl looked up at the young boy beside her.

「Nn?」

「『Bearer』.....Is there, something beyond the sky?」

The young boy, Amagi Kaito, answered the words of the ashen little girl while making a wry smile.

「The stars are there.」

That pair of eyes reflected the little girl that looked up at the sky.



Credits

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